Shuzo Oshimi

Blood on the Tracks

volume 17

Blood on the Tracks

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Shuzo Oshimi

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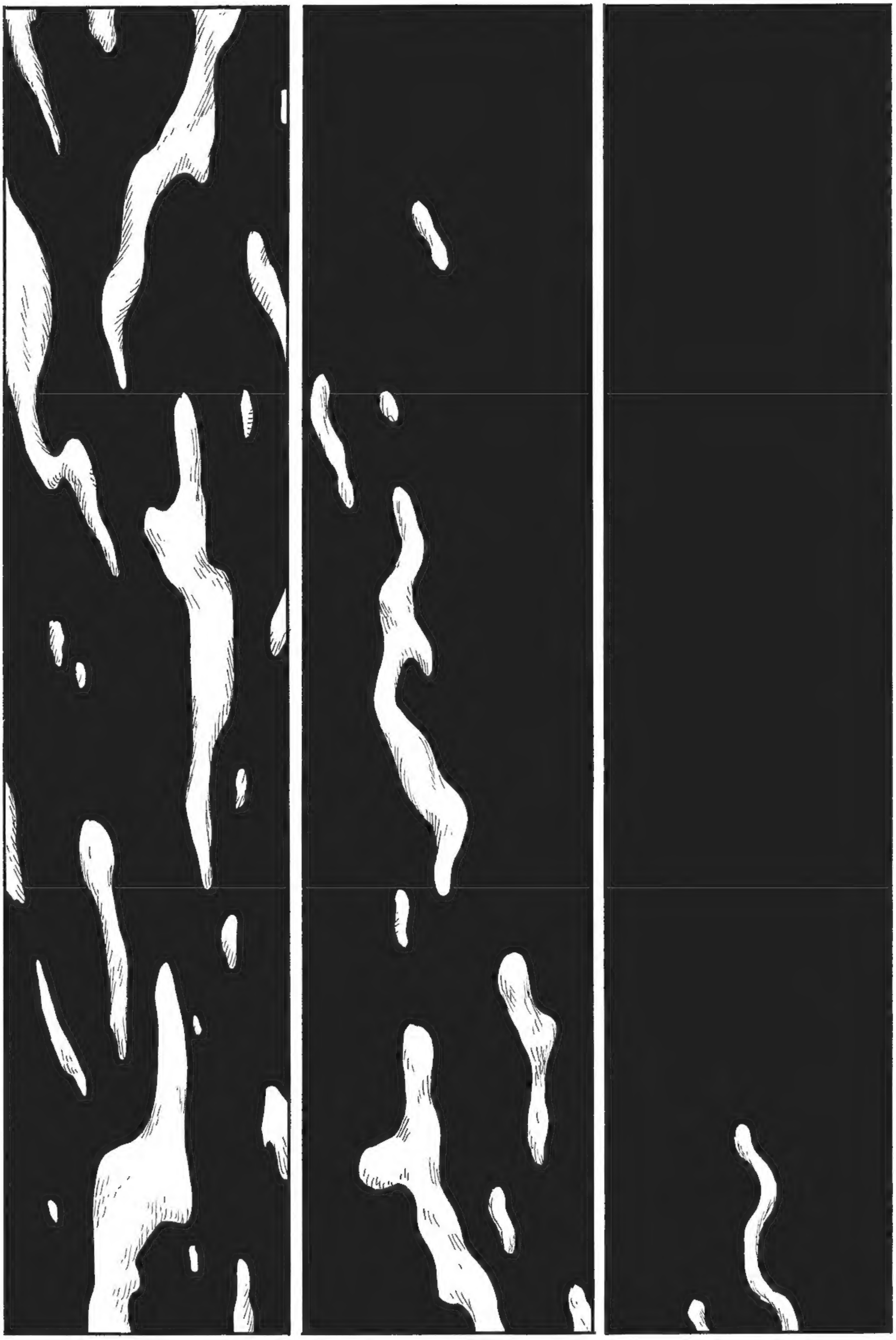
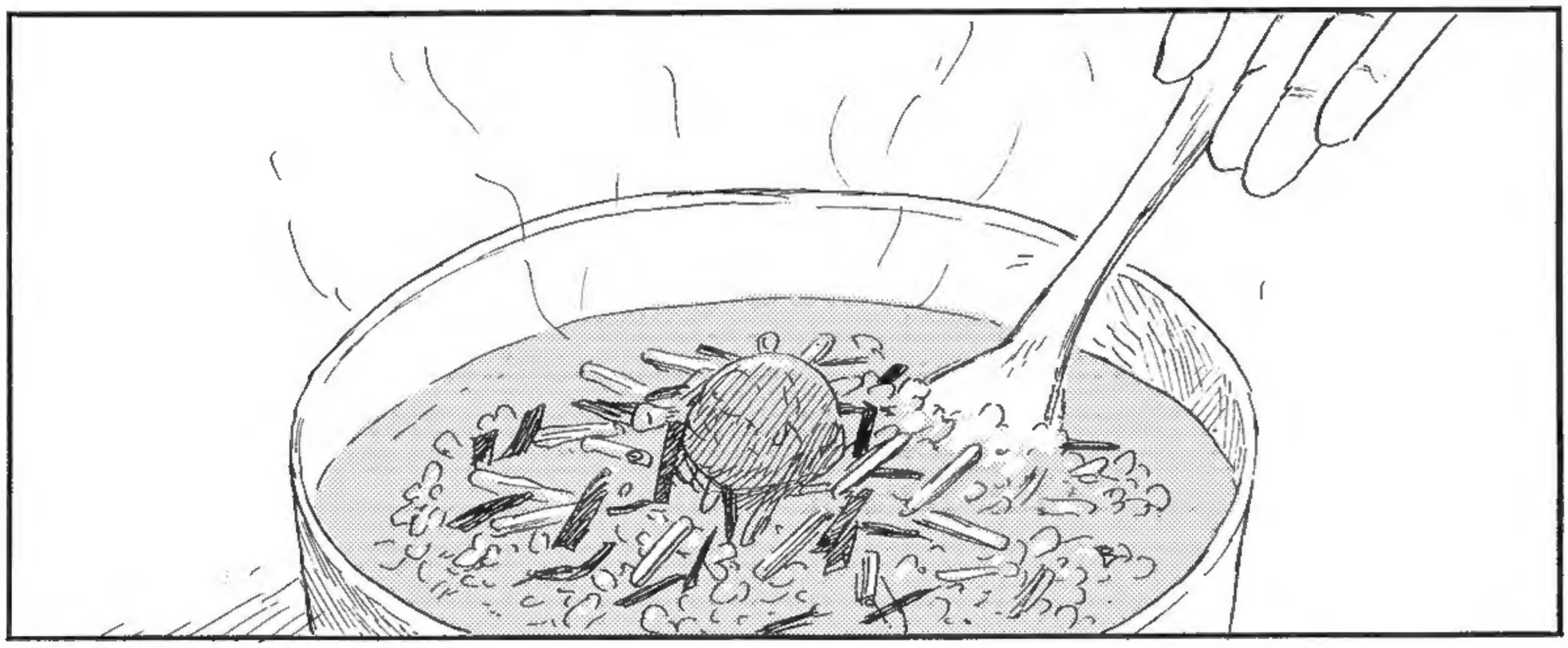




FFF
FFF

SAY AAH.

PLUP

PUP

AAH
NUTS...

COME ON.

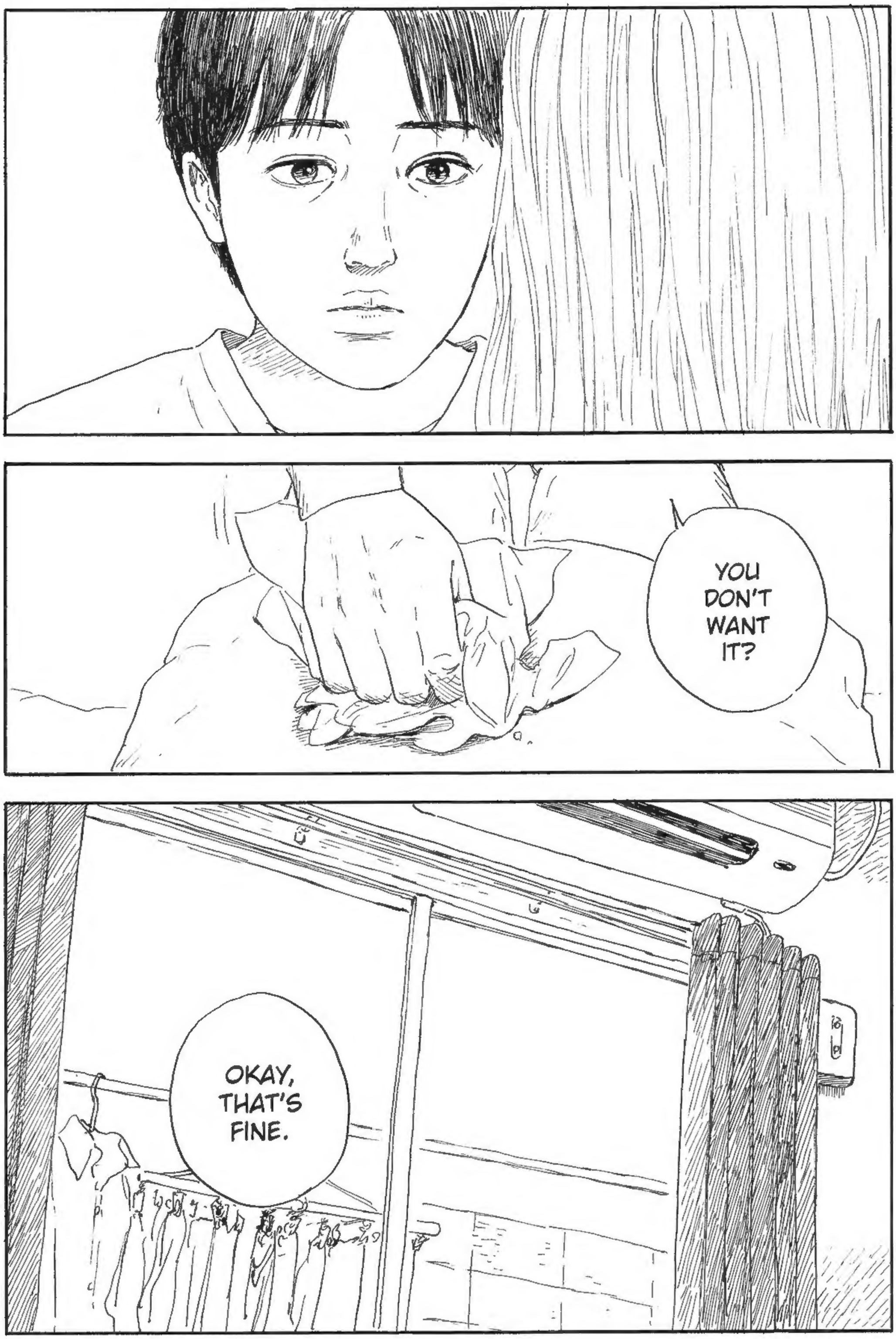
OPEN YOUR MOUTH.

FSHK

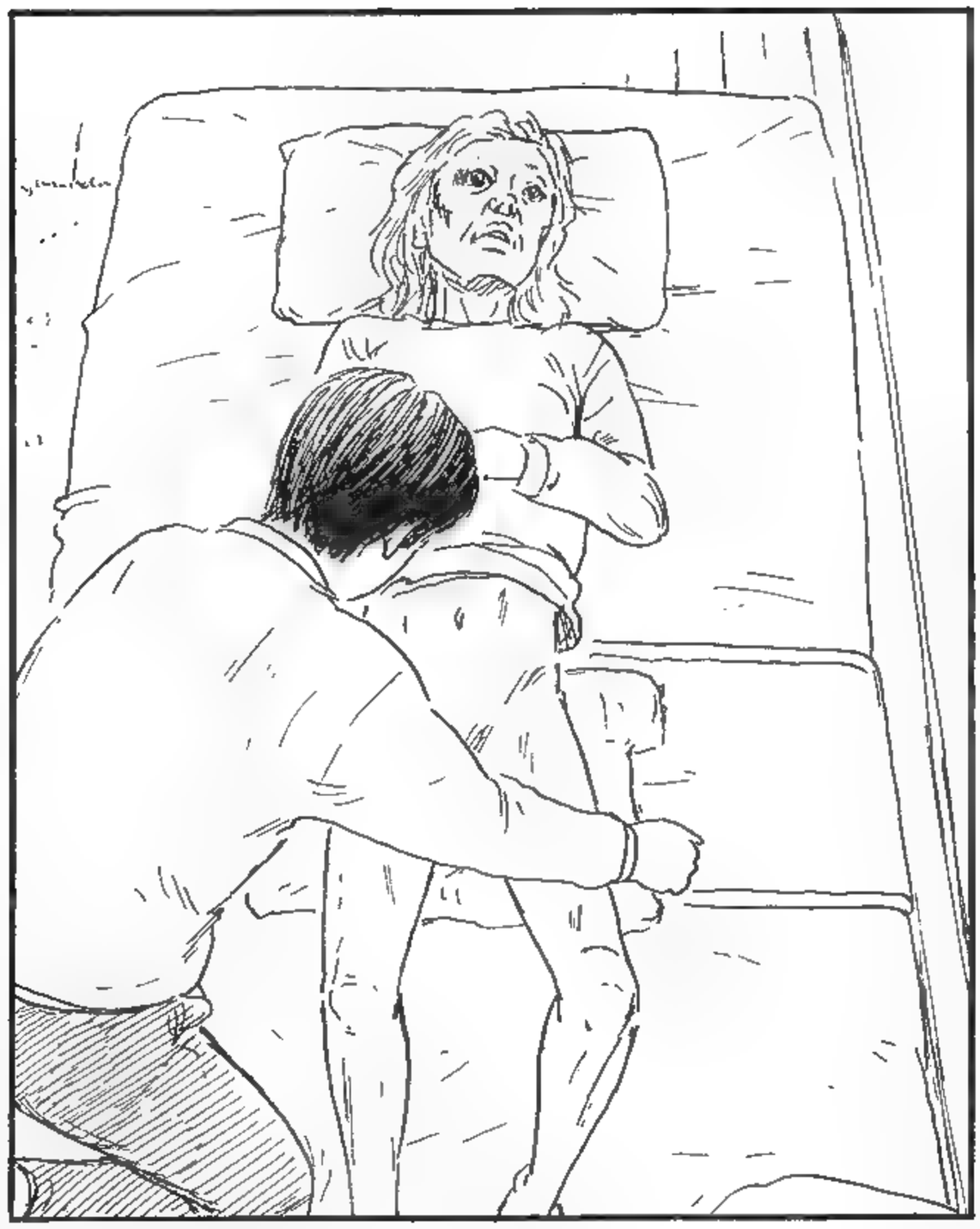
BLEH.

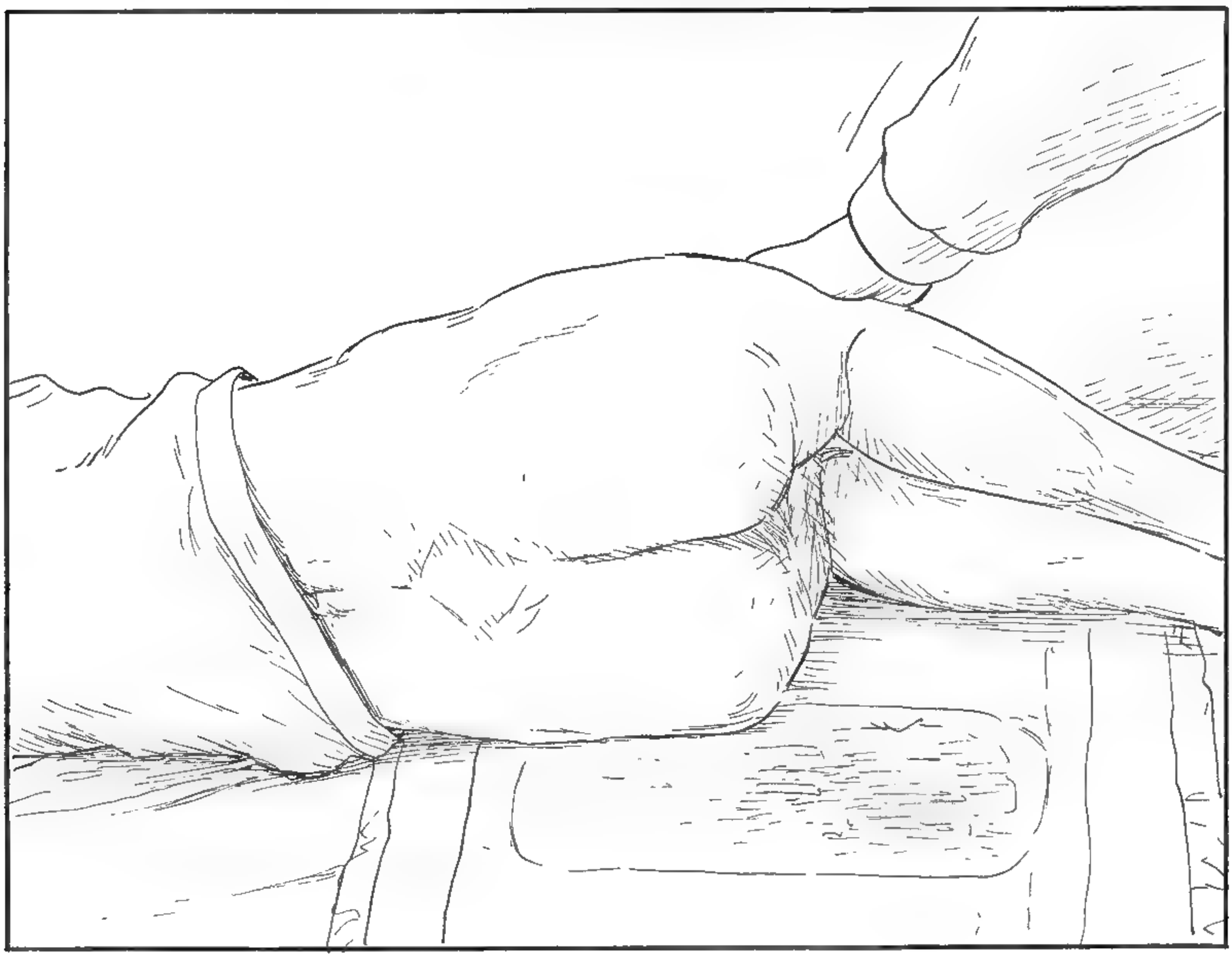
PLUP

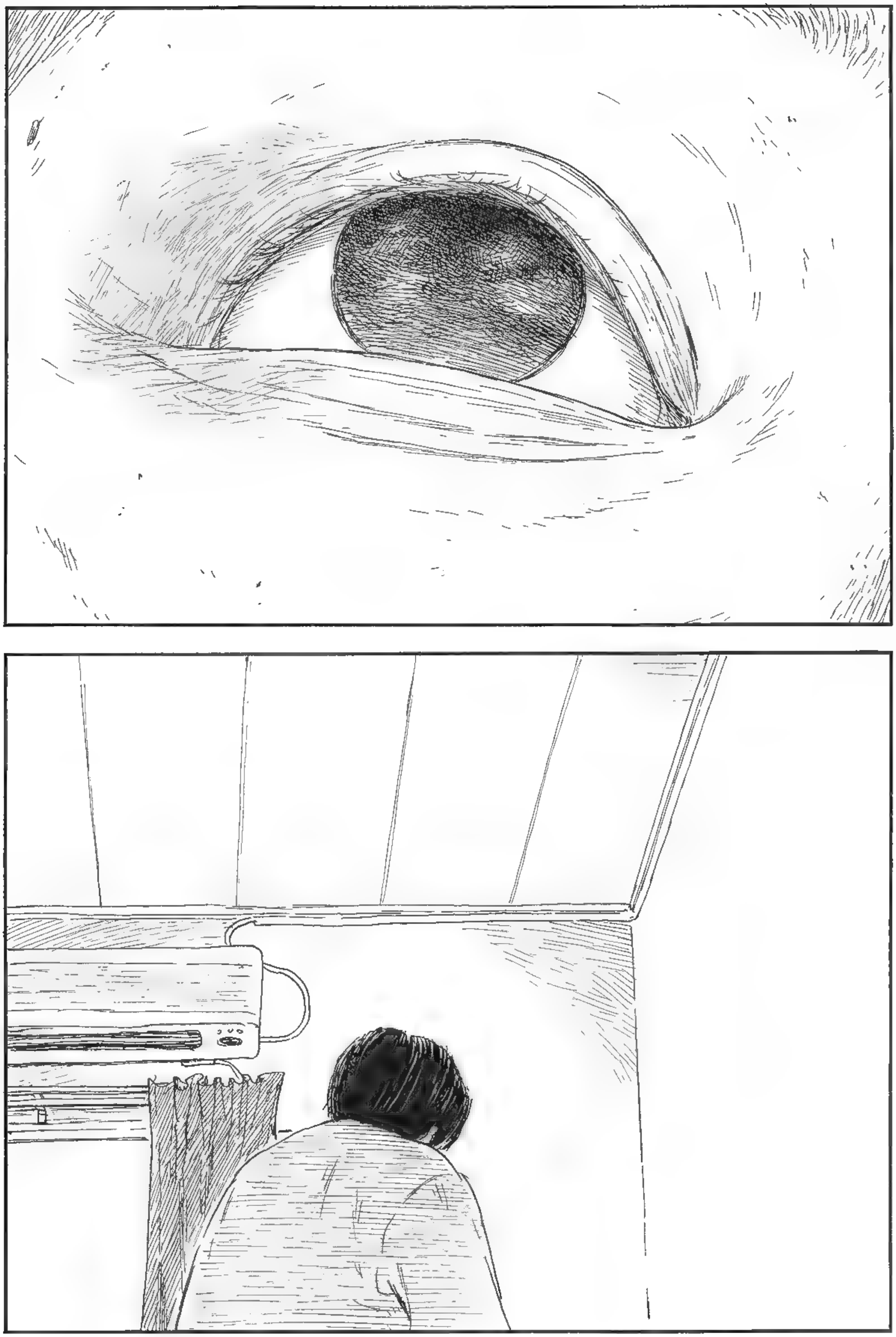
PLUP


YOU DON'T WANT IT?
OKAY, THAT'S FINE.

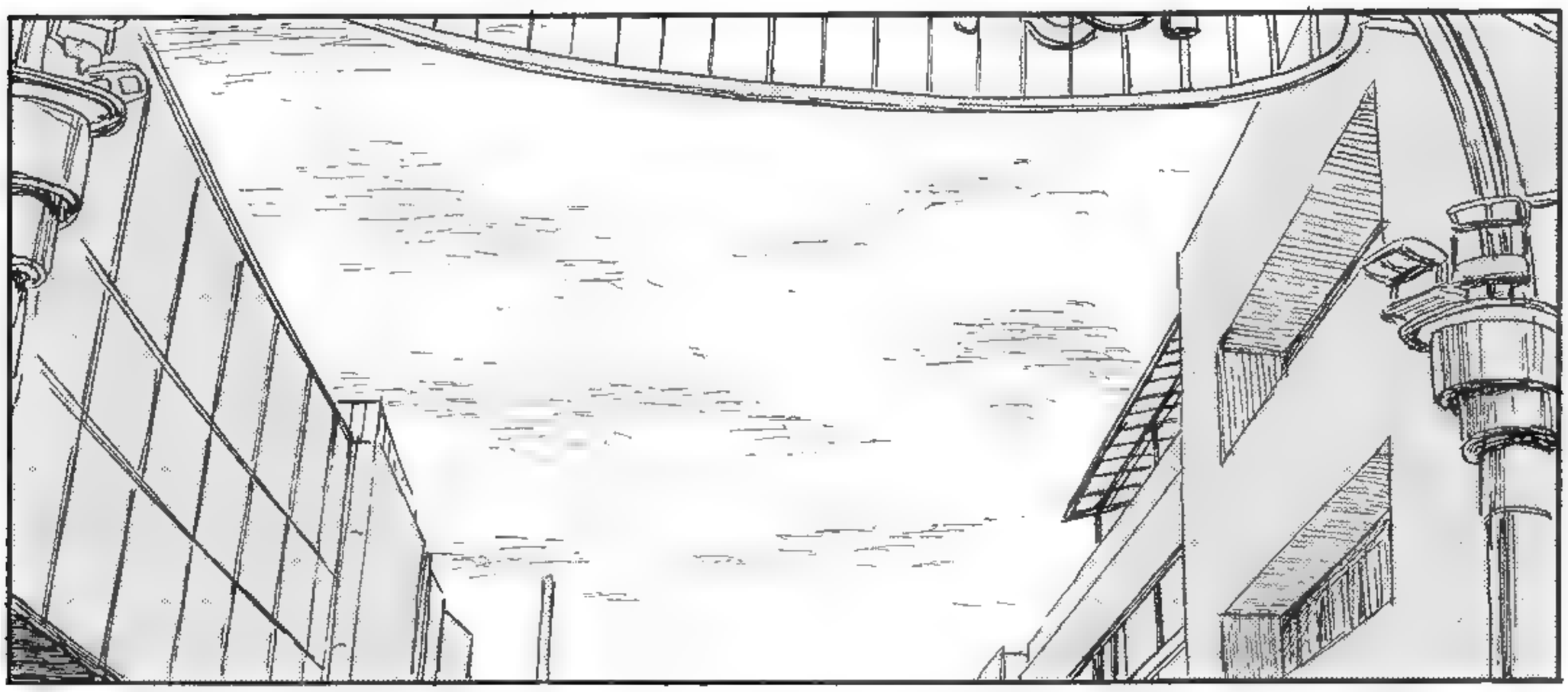
LET'S GET THIS OFF.

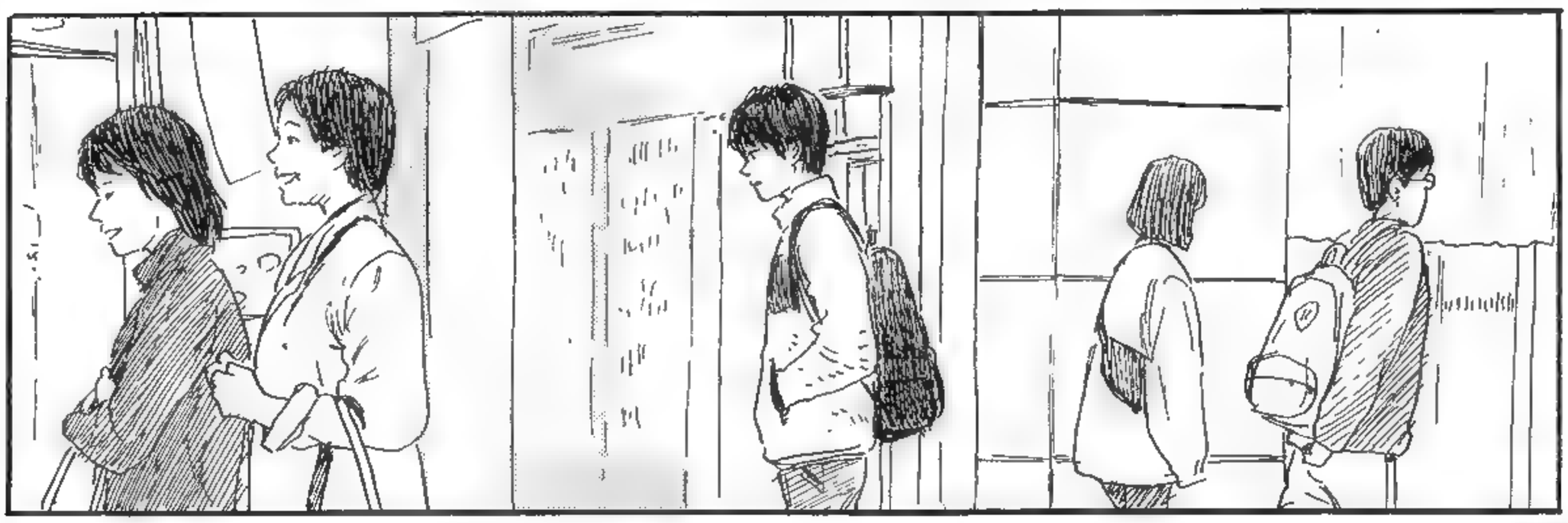




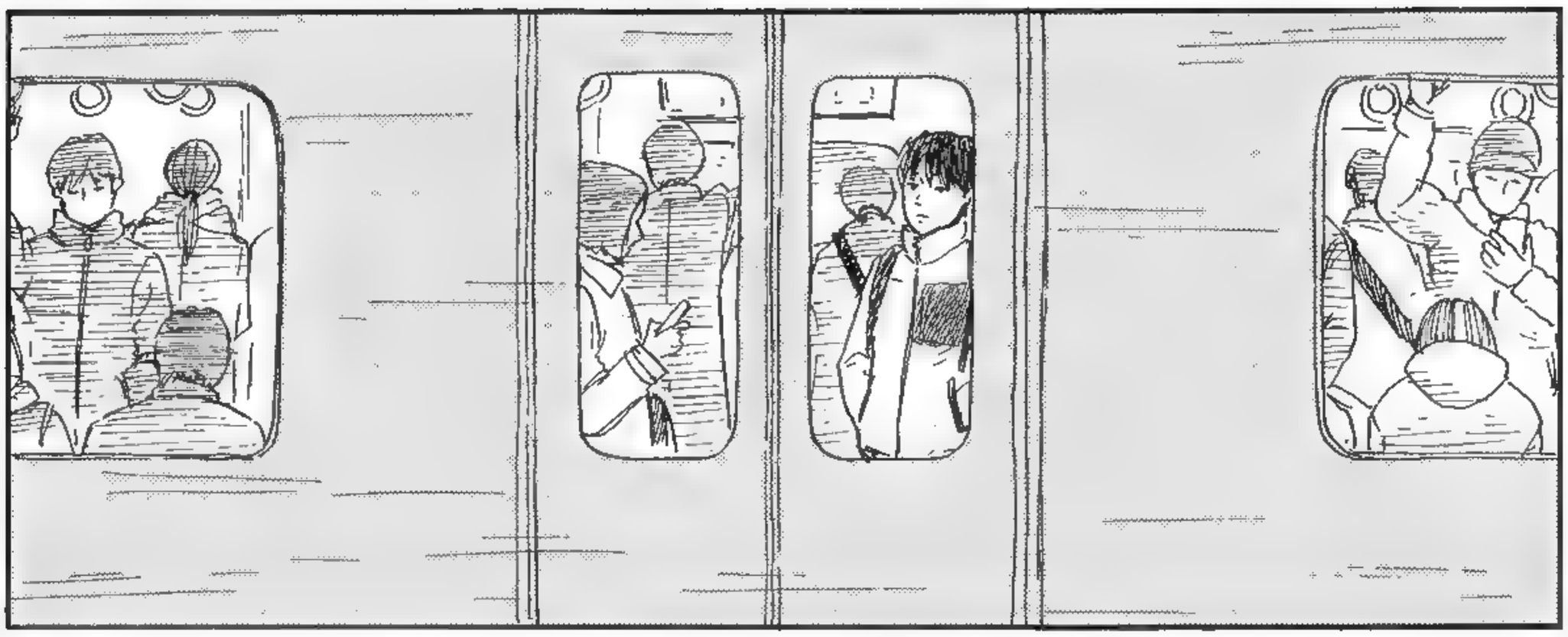


I'LL
BE
BACK.

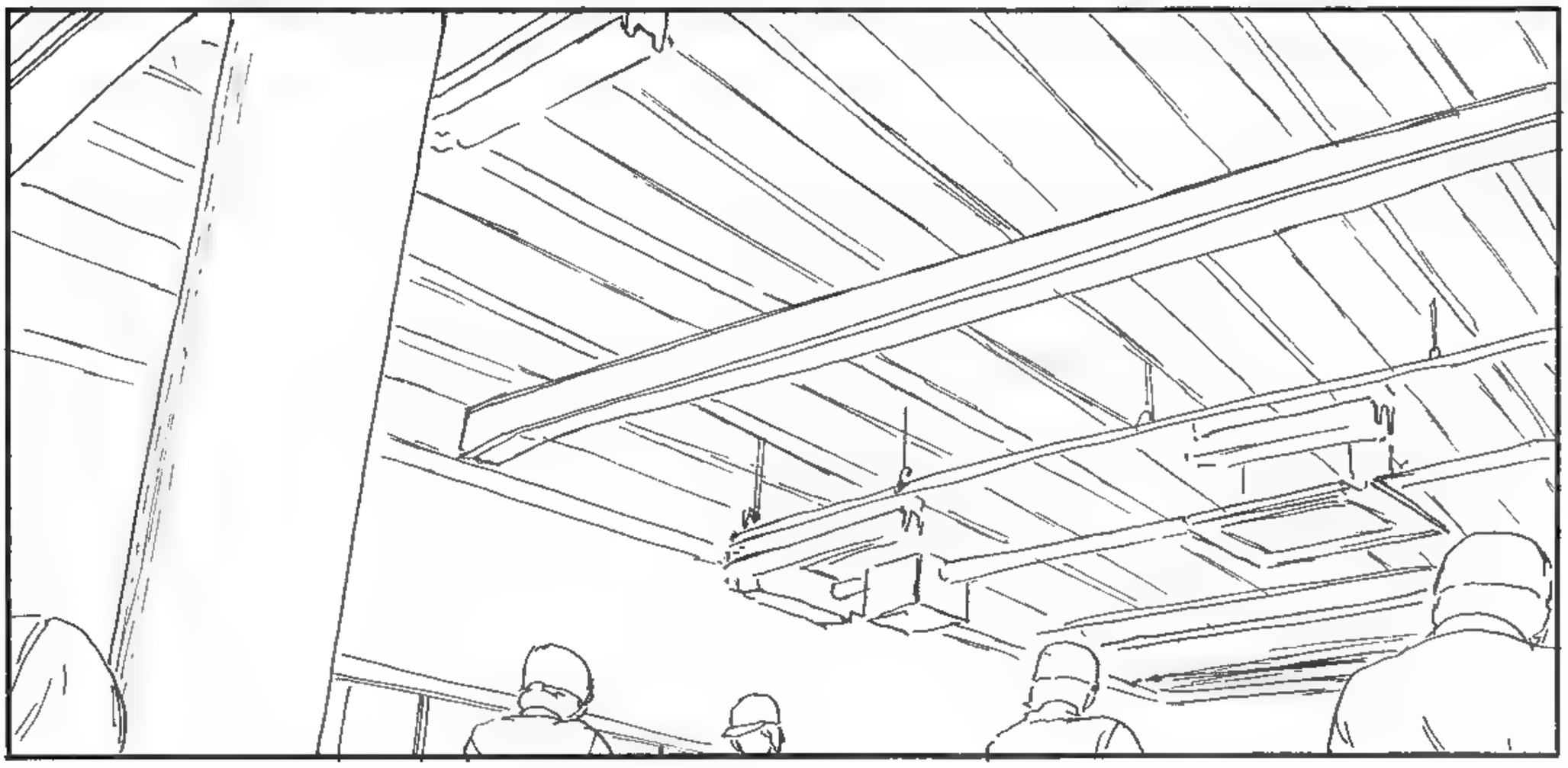


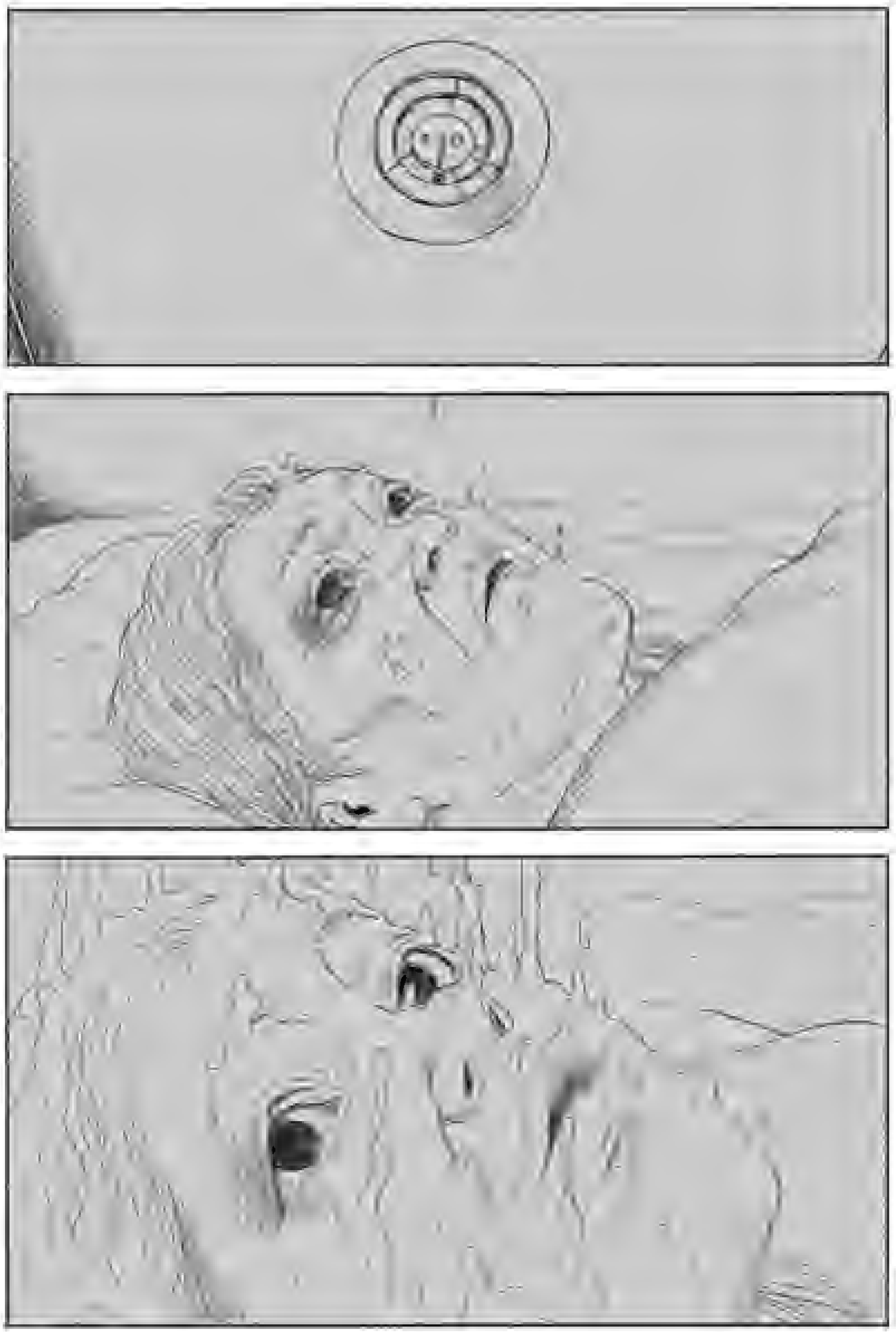


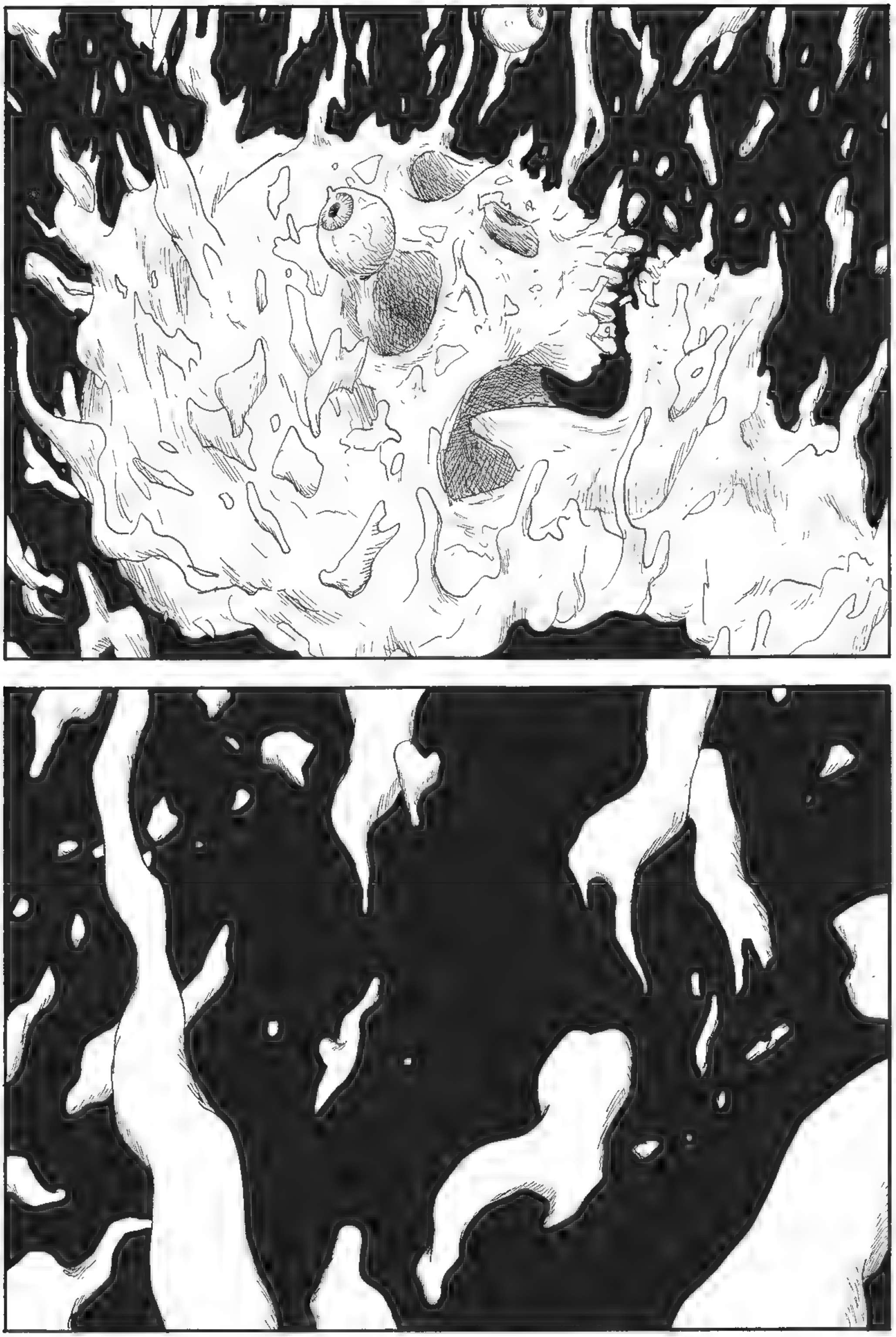
You're fine like that.



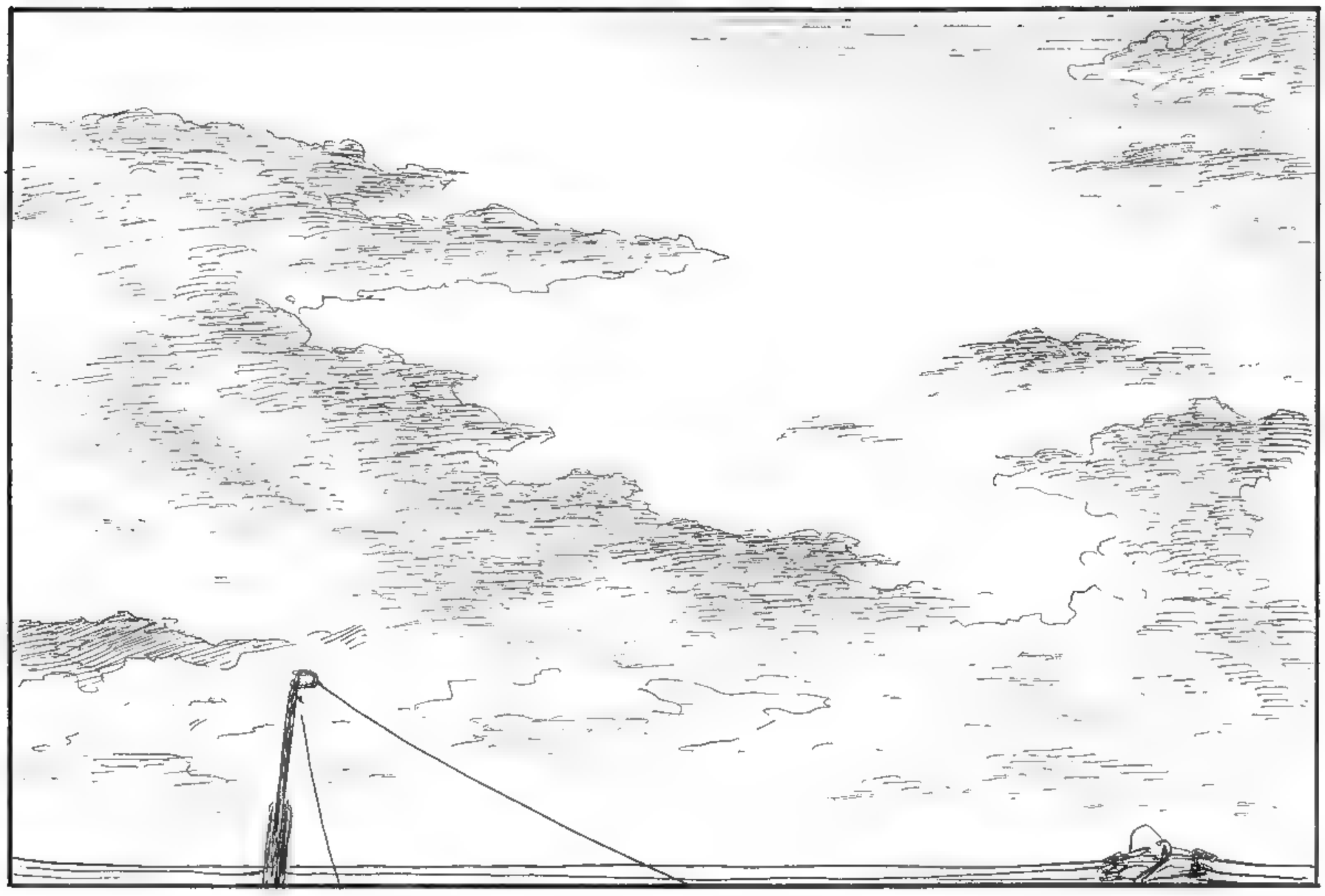
I'll be watching over you.

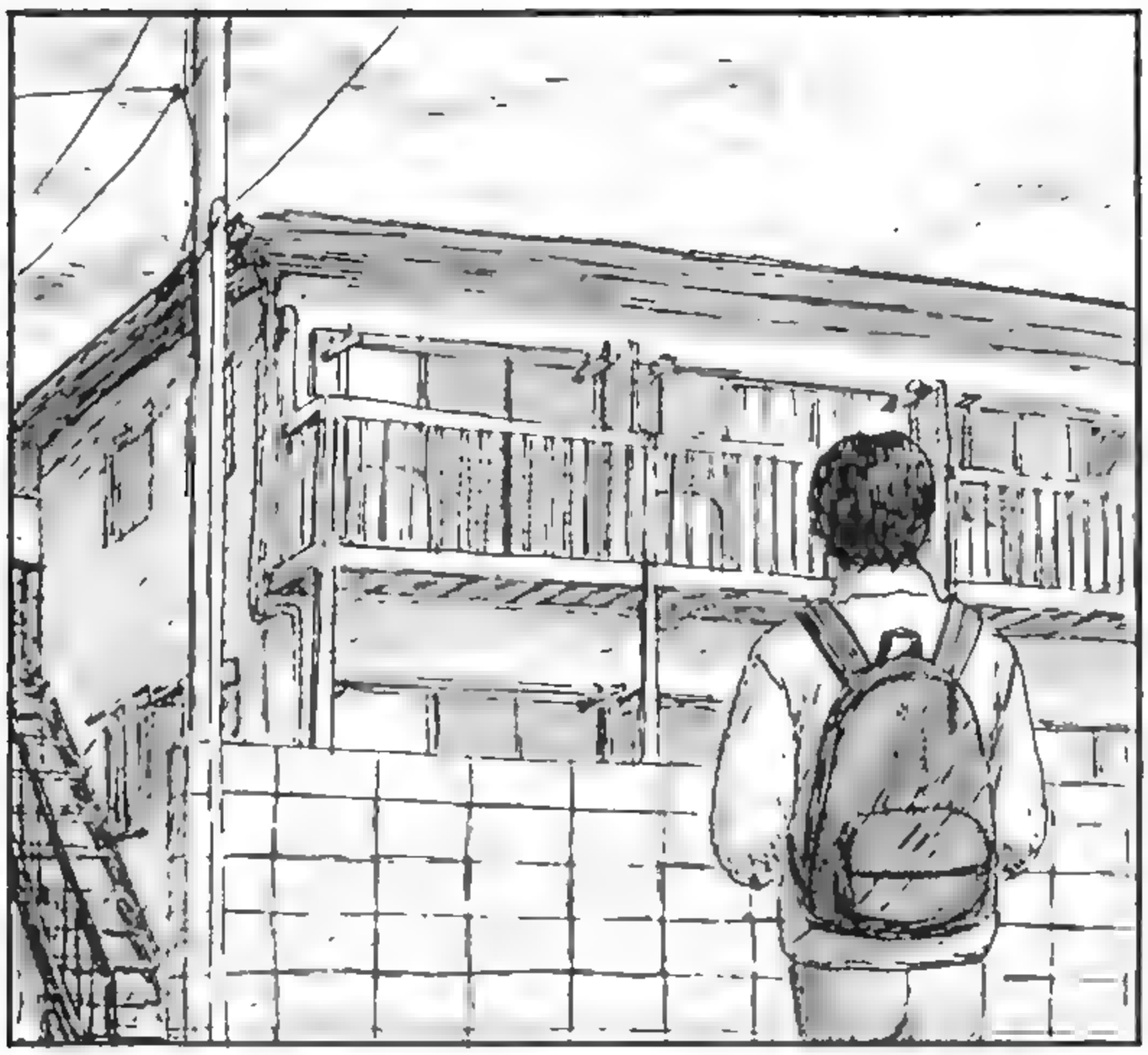






Just relax...



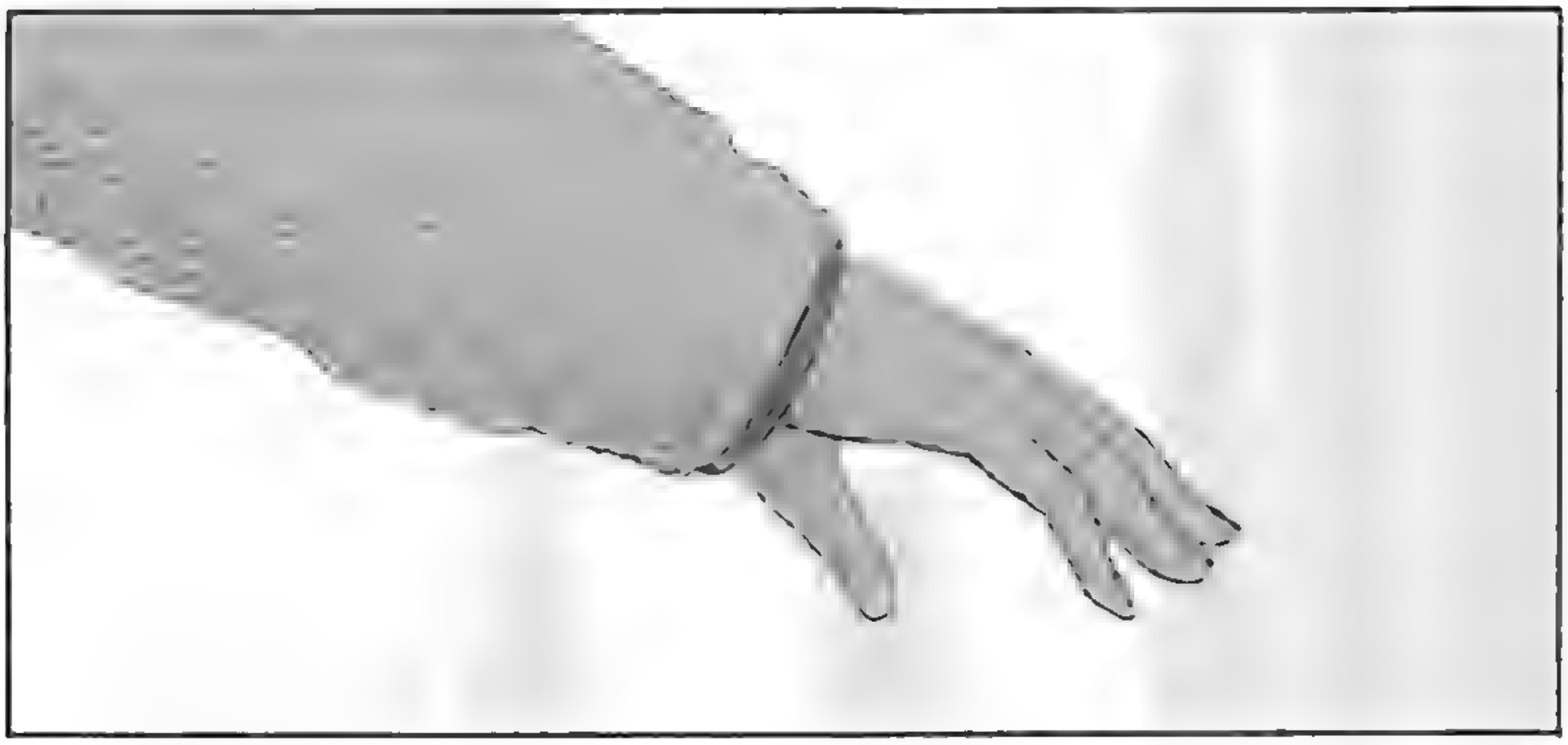


CREE
キィ……

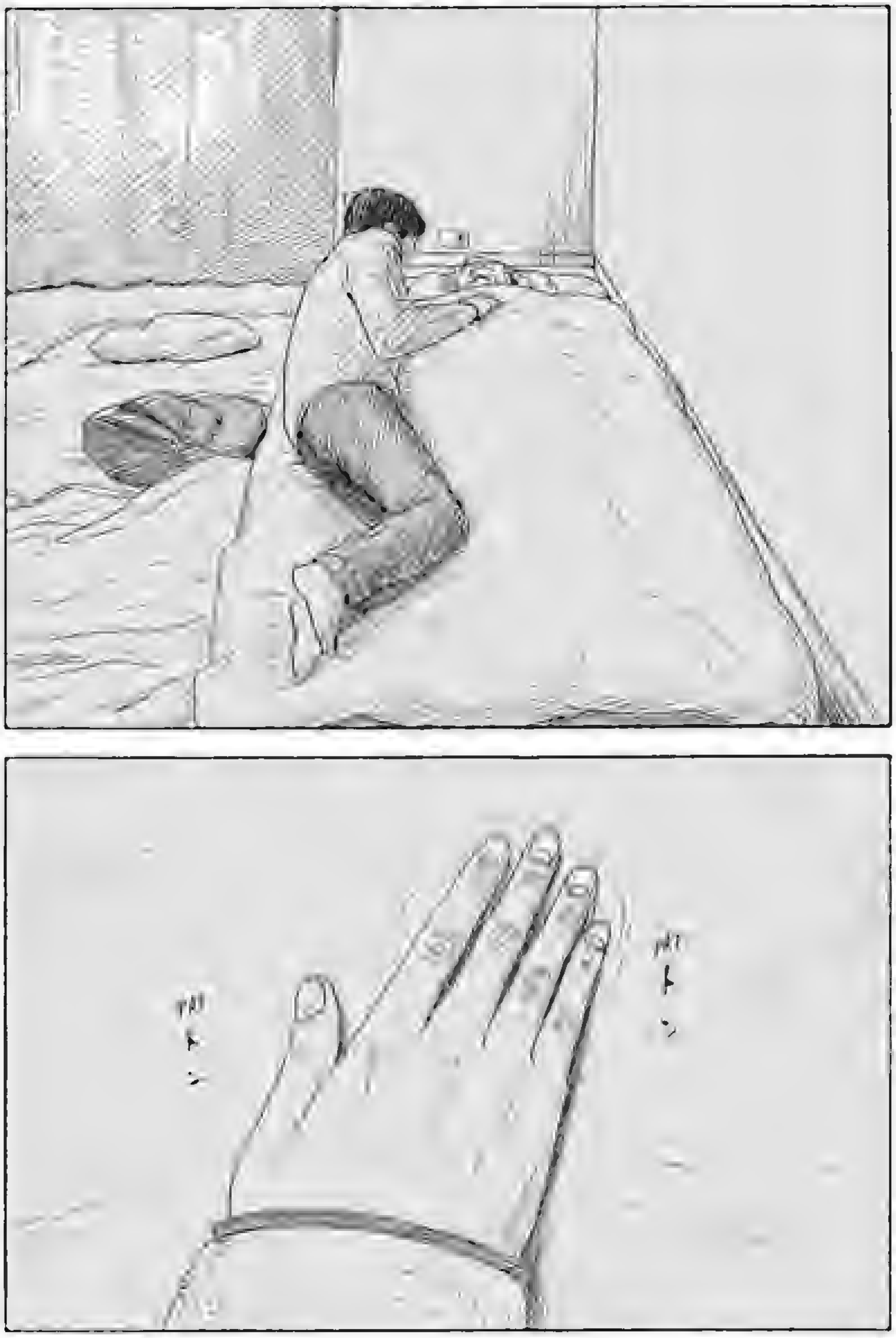
...I'M
BACK.

Fhh...
Fhh...

fhh...
fhh...
fhh...
fhh...



Fhh-
Fhh...
Fhh-



Blood on the Tracks

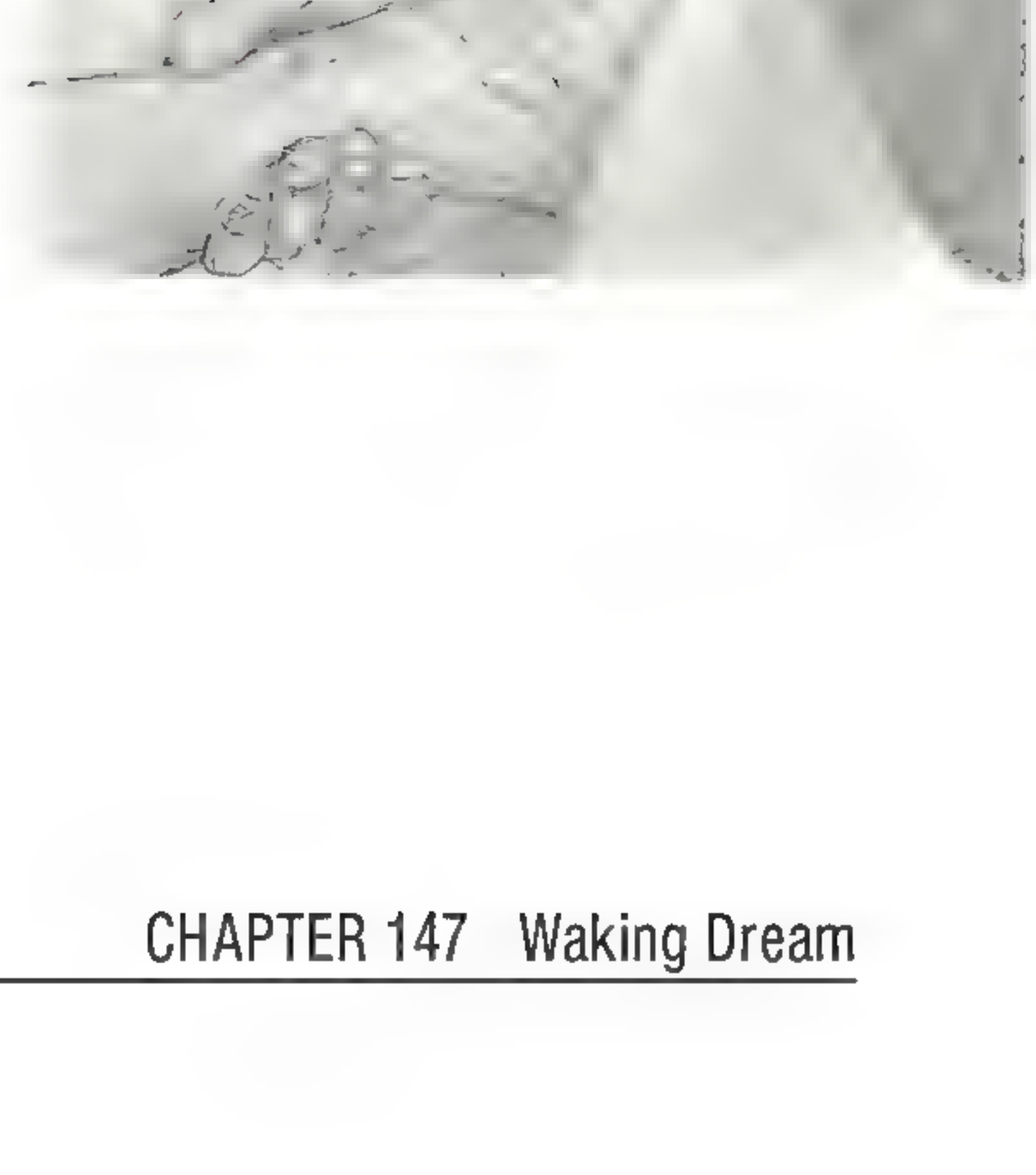
CHAPTER 147 Waking Dream

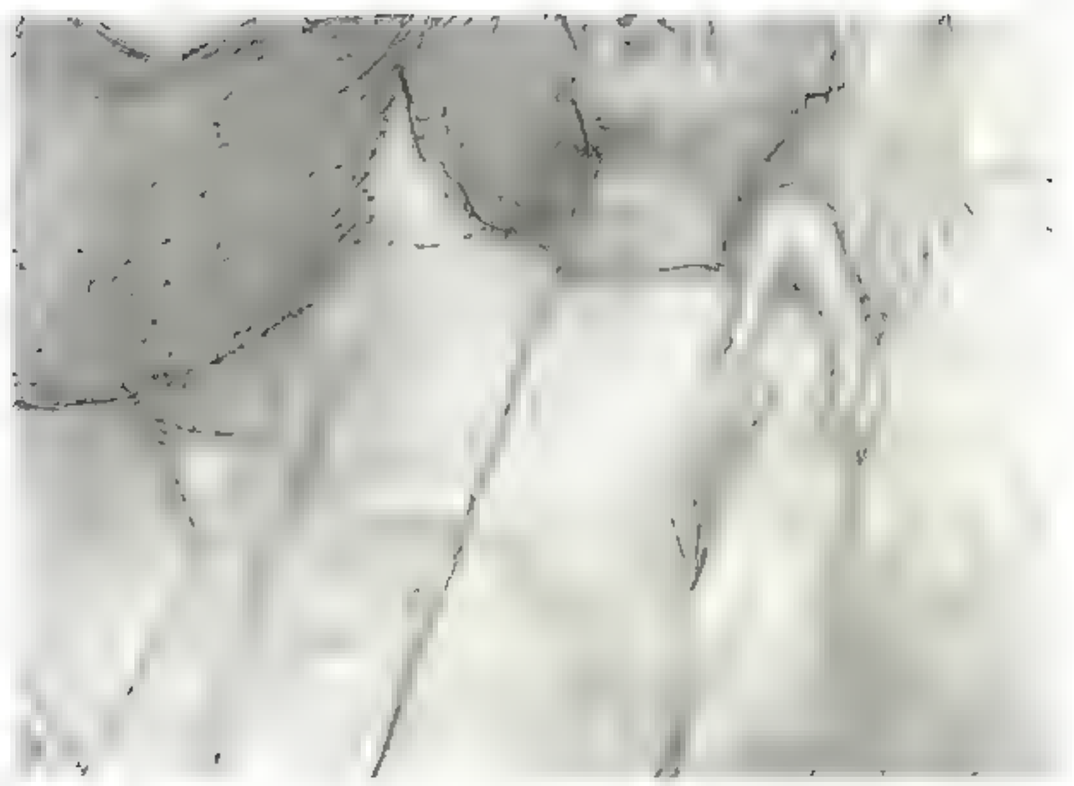
Today, she ate a little porridge.

The water
she drank
enthusiastically.

Guess she
must've been
thirsty.

I wiped her down.





It
seemed
like she
didn't
even want
to sit.

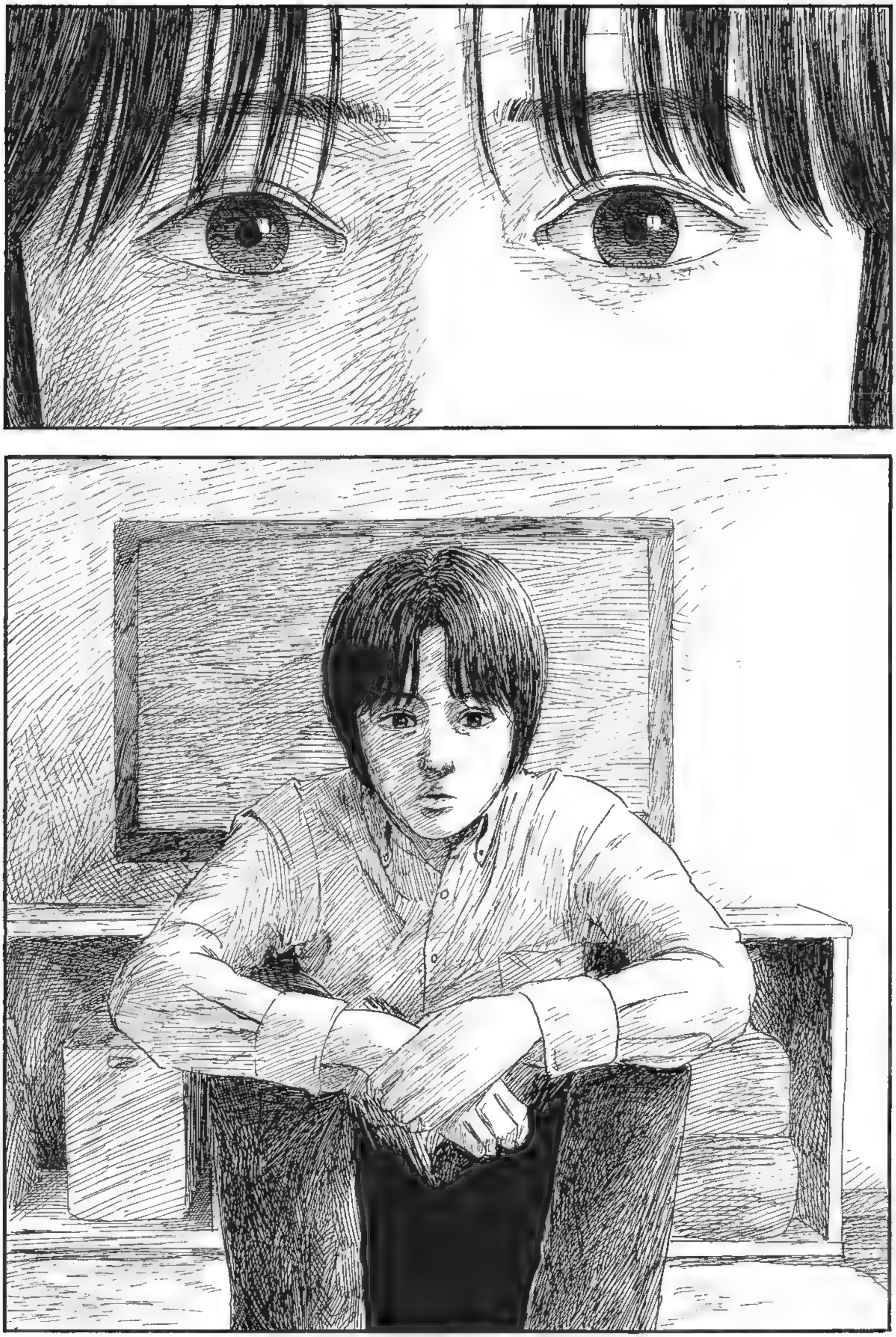
Today I
tried to get
her up and
feed her,
but she just
lay there.

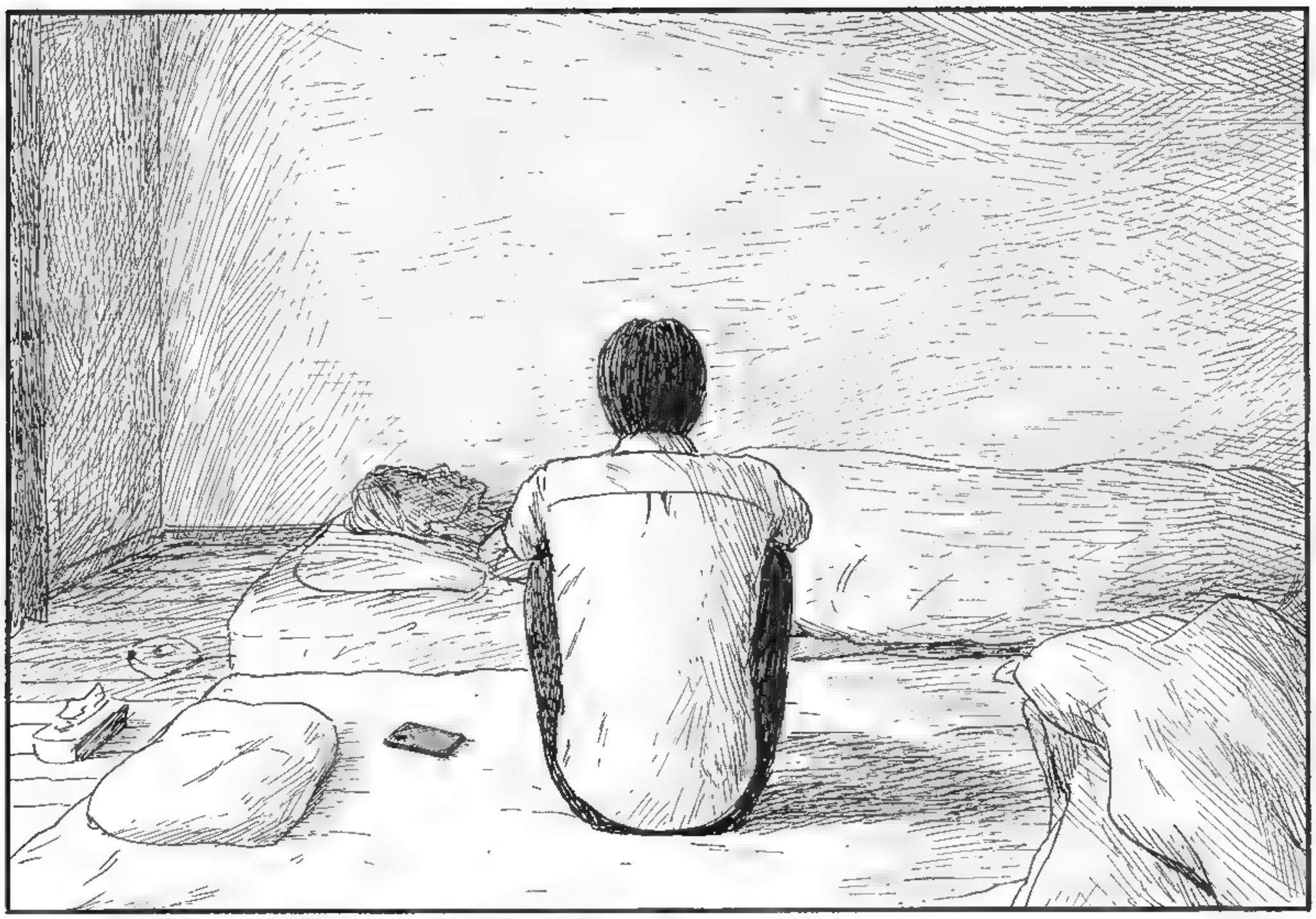
I tried to feed her some fruit jelly while she was lying down, but she wouldn't swallow it.

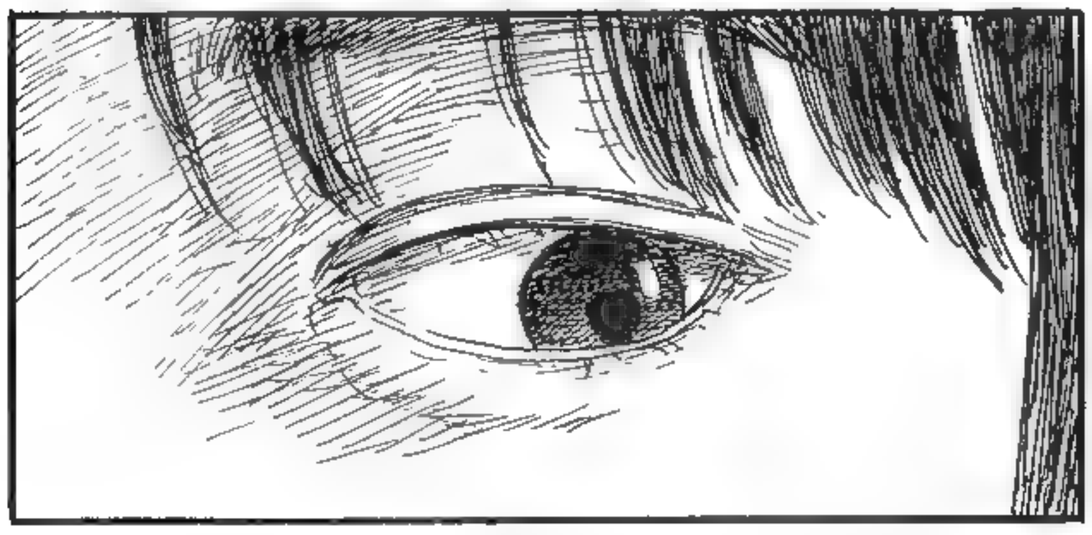
So I just poured water in her mouth.

She's lost a lot of weight.

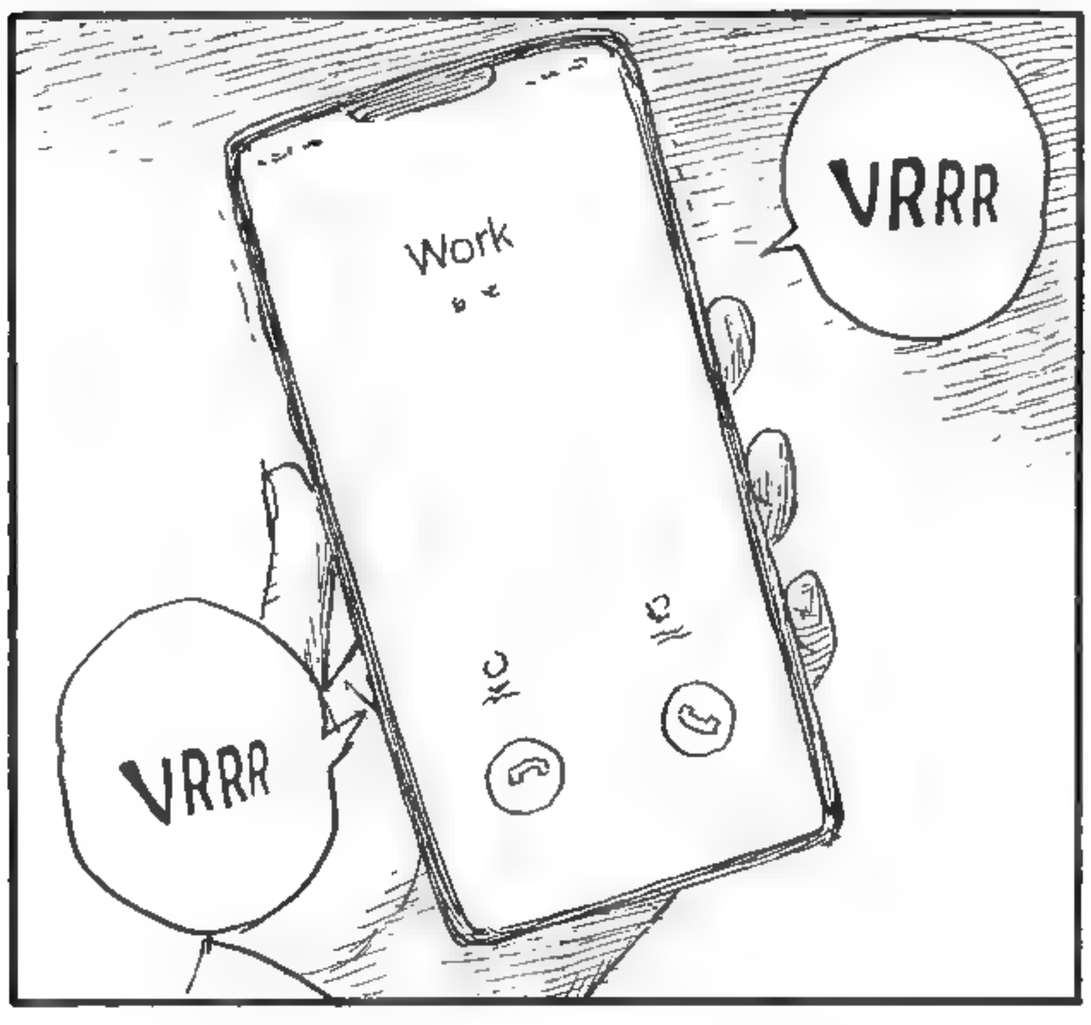
And she keeps on losing more.

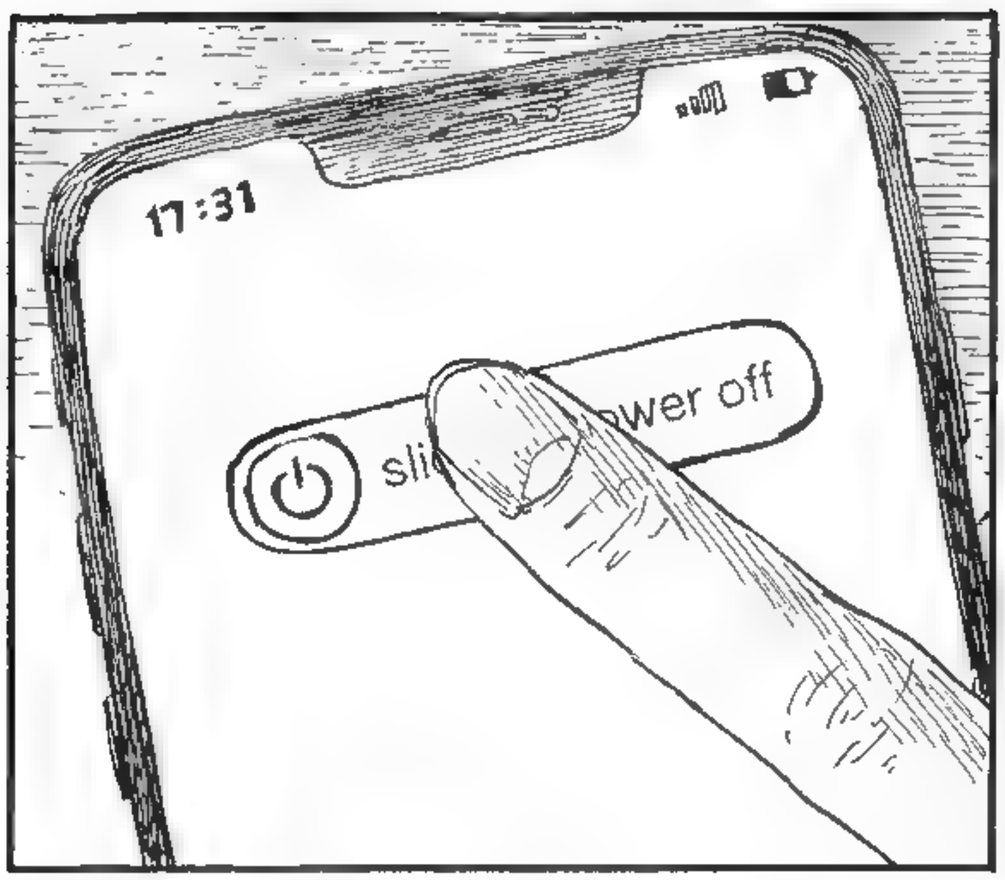


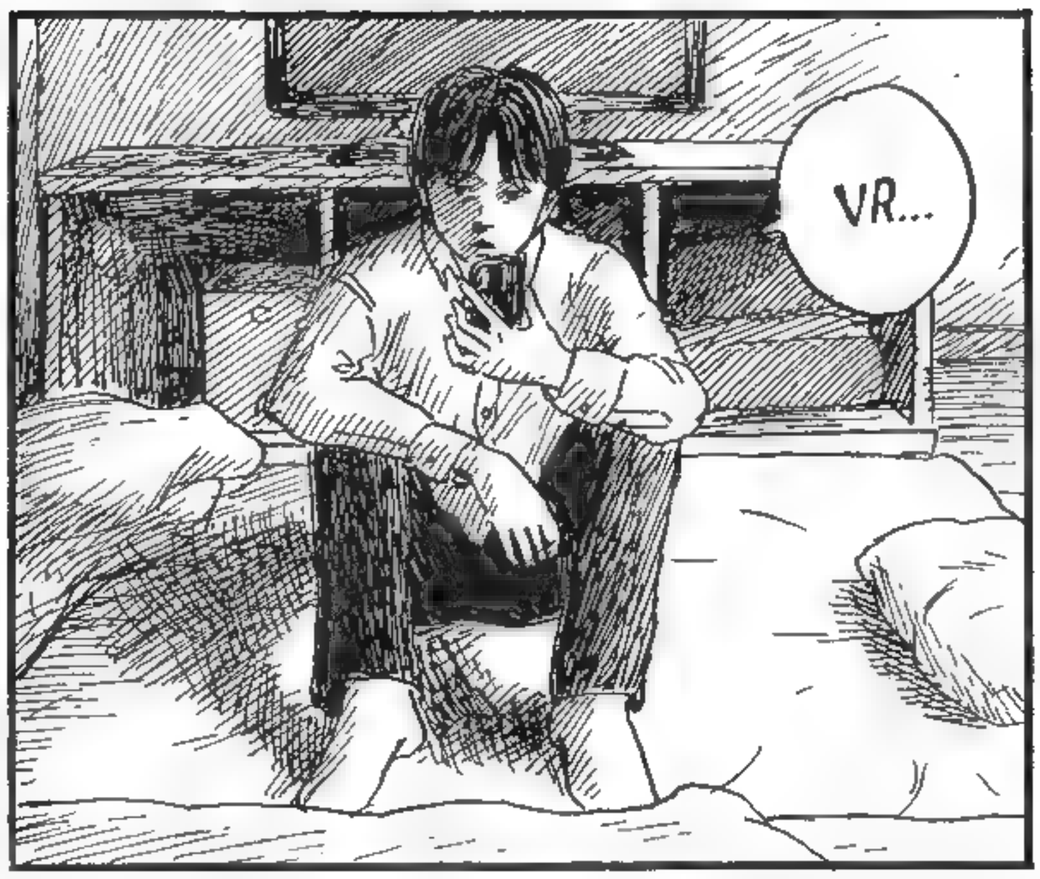




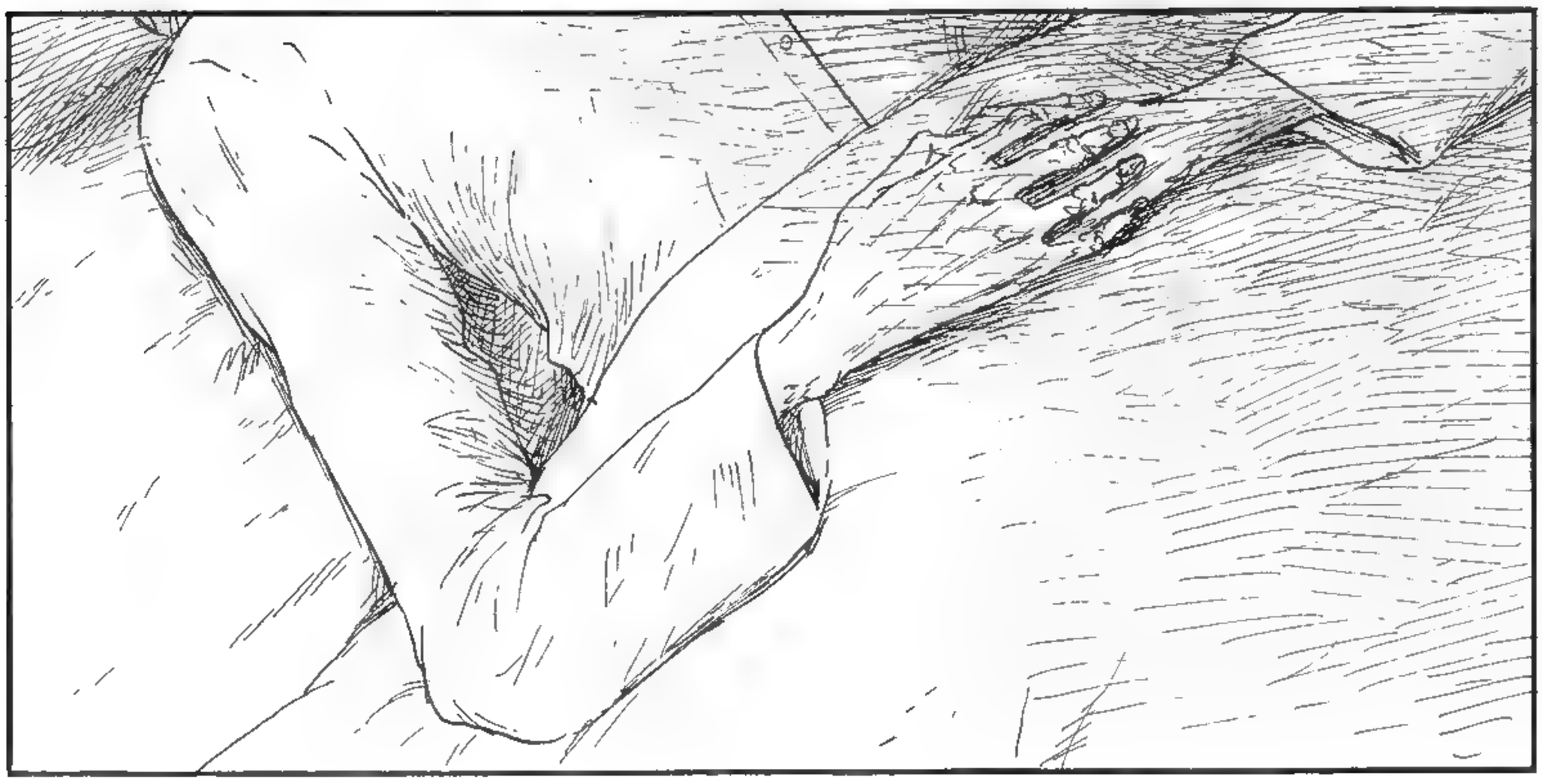
VRRR
VRRR

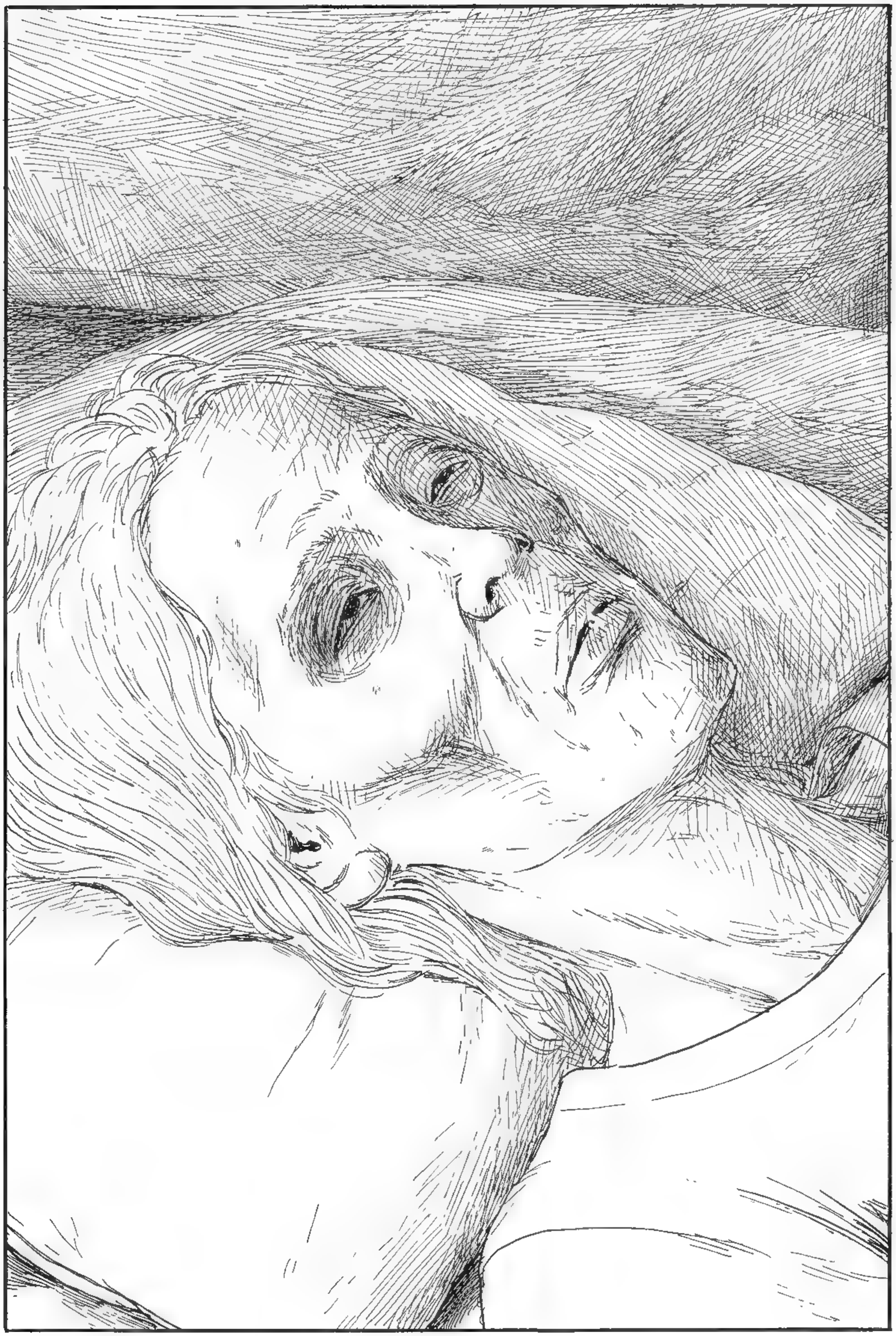

Work
VRRR
VRRR


17:31
power off

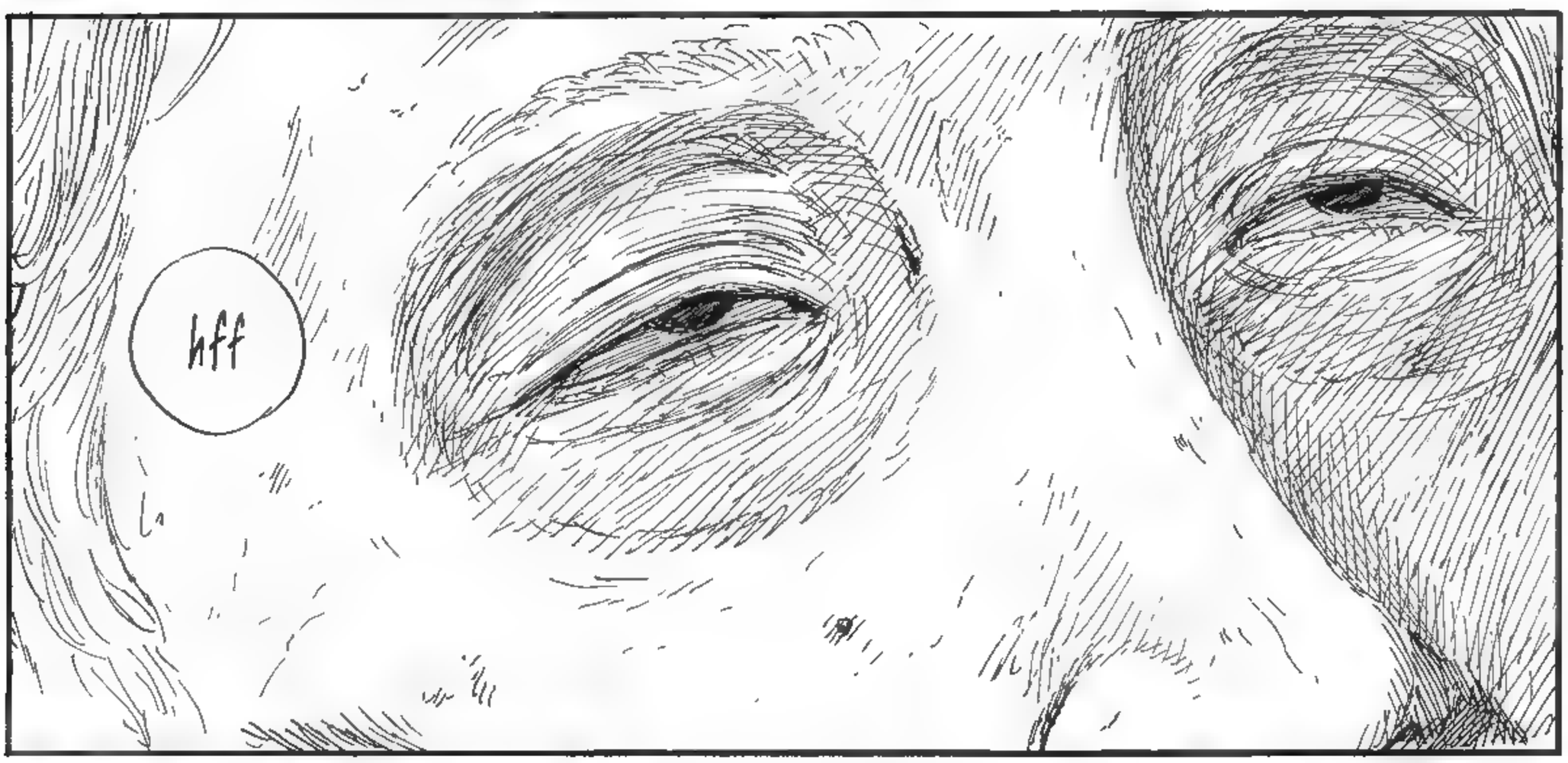

VR...

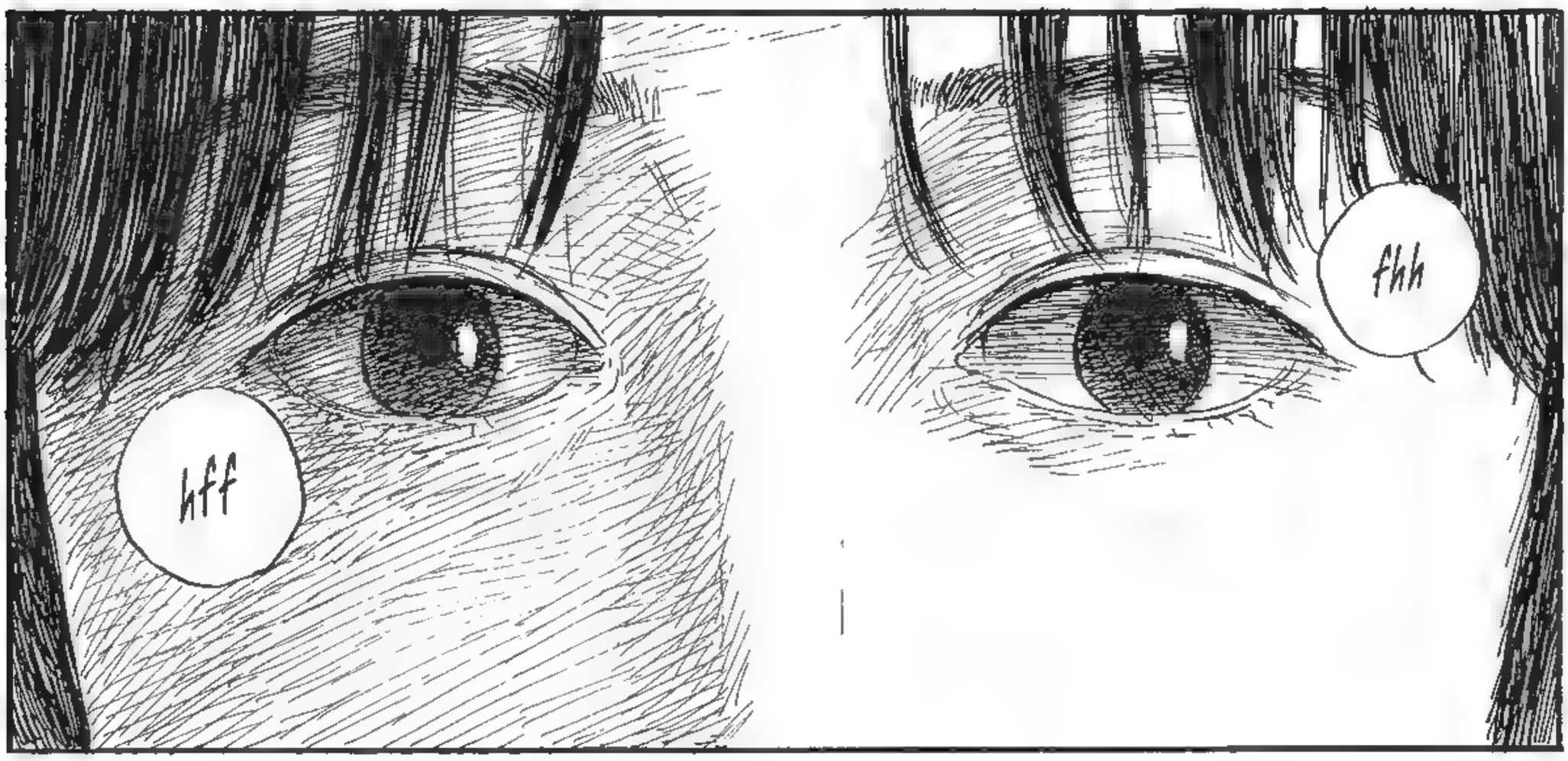
FUCKING WORK.
...ENOUGH ALREADY.

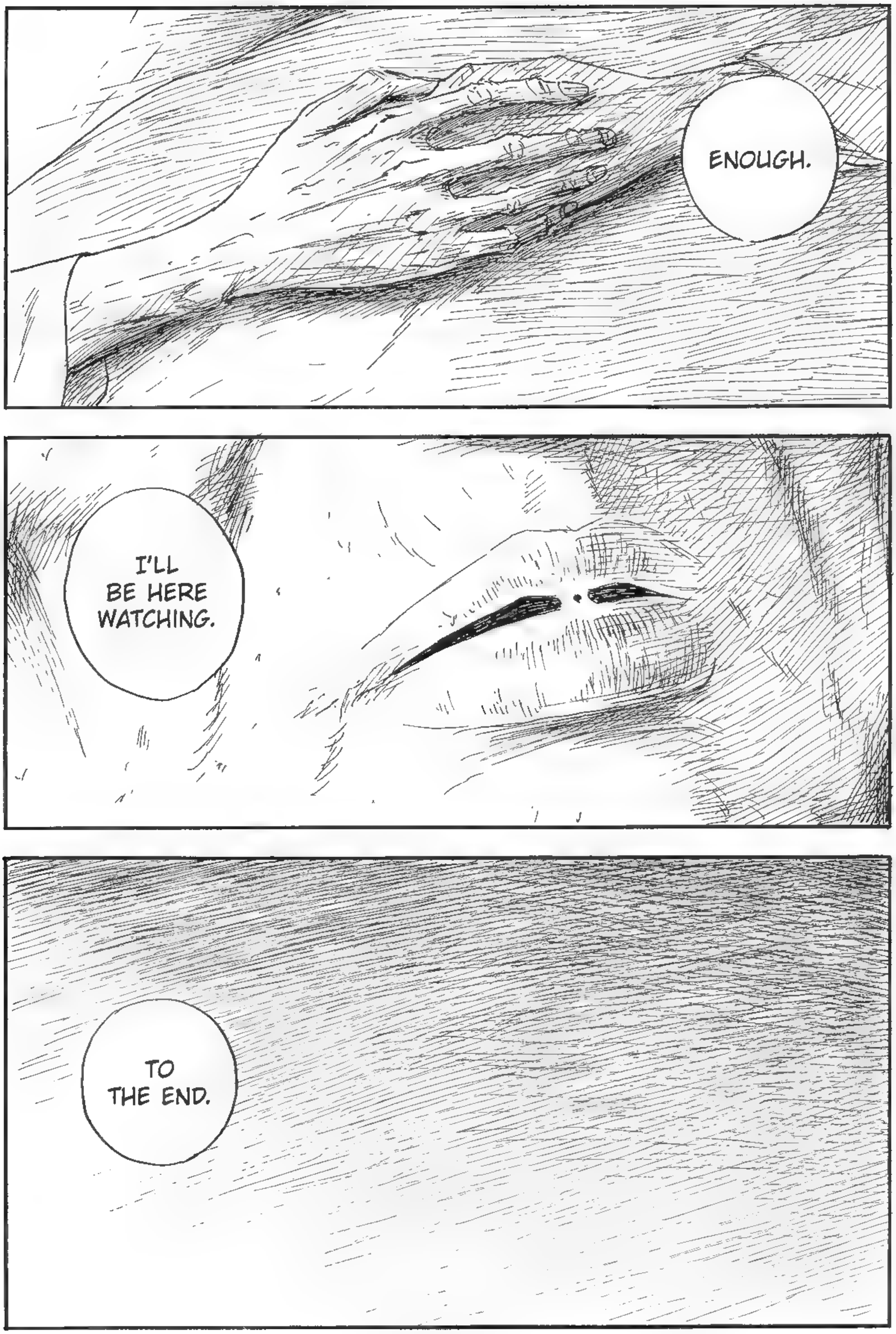


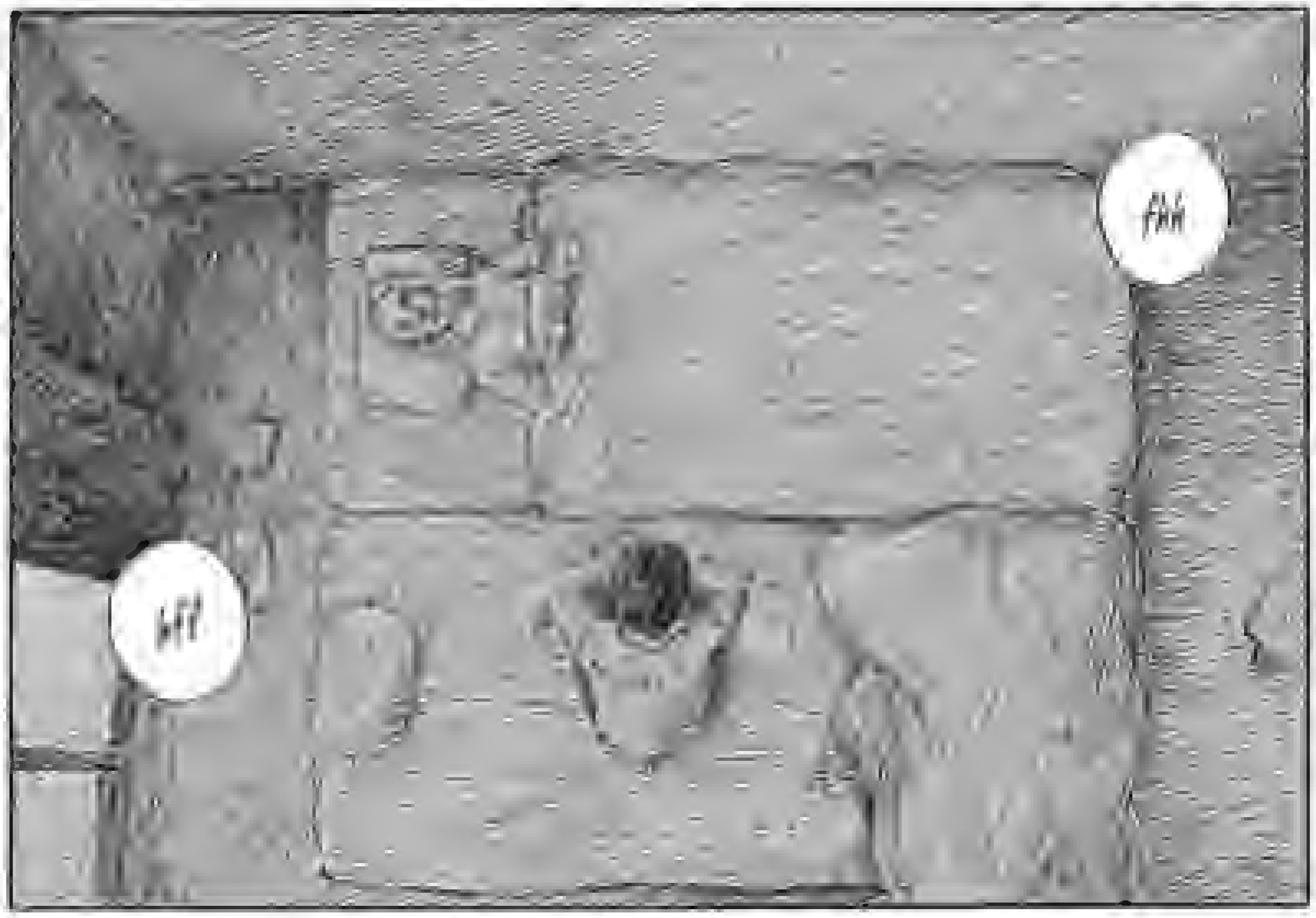


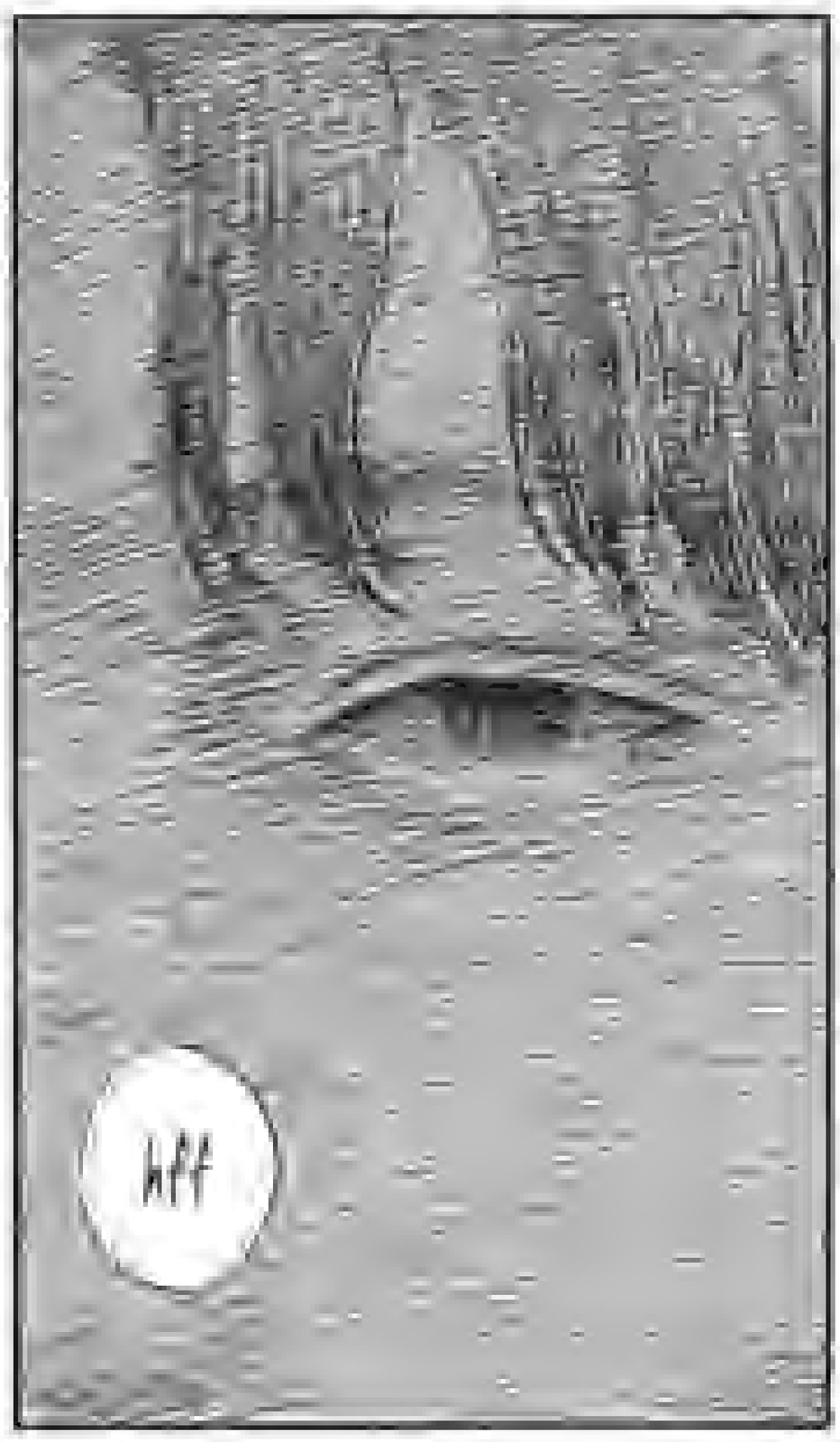
fhh


hff

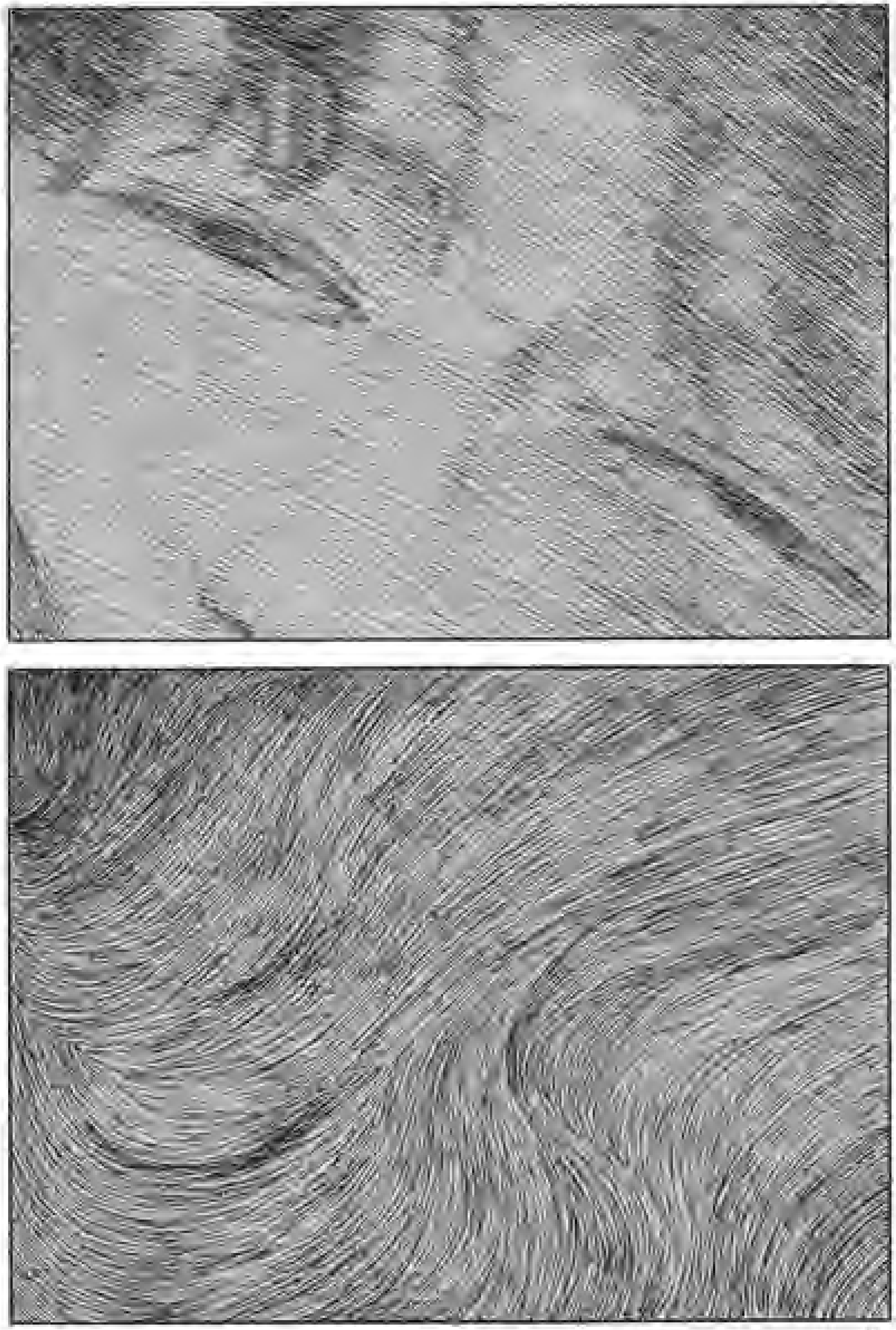

hff
fhh
hff

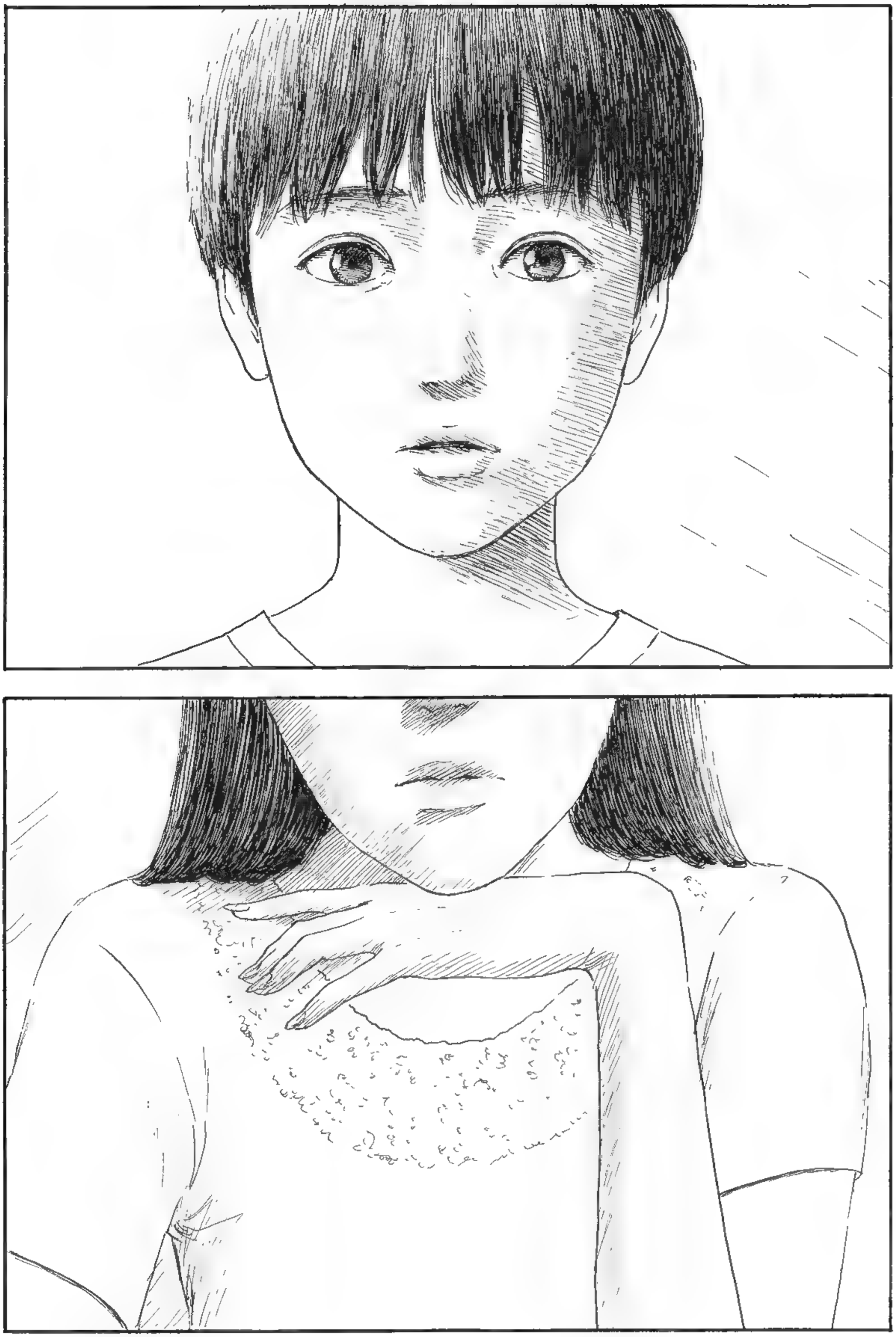

ENOUGH.
I'LL BE HERE WATCHING.
TO THE END.

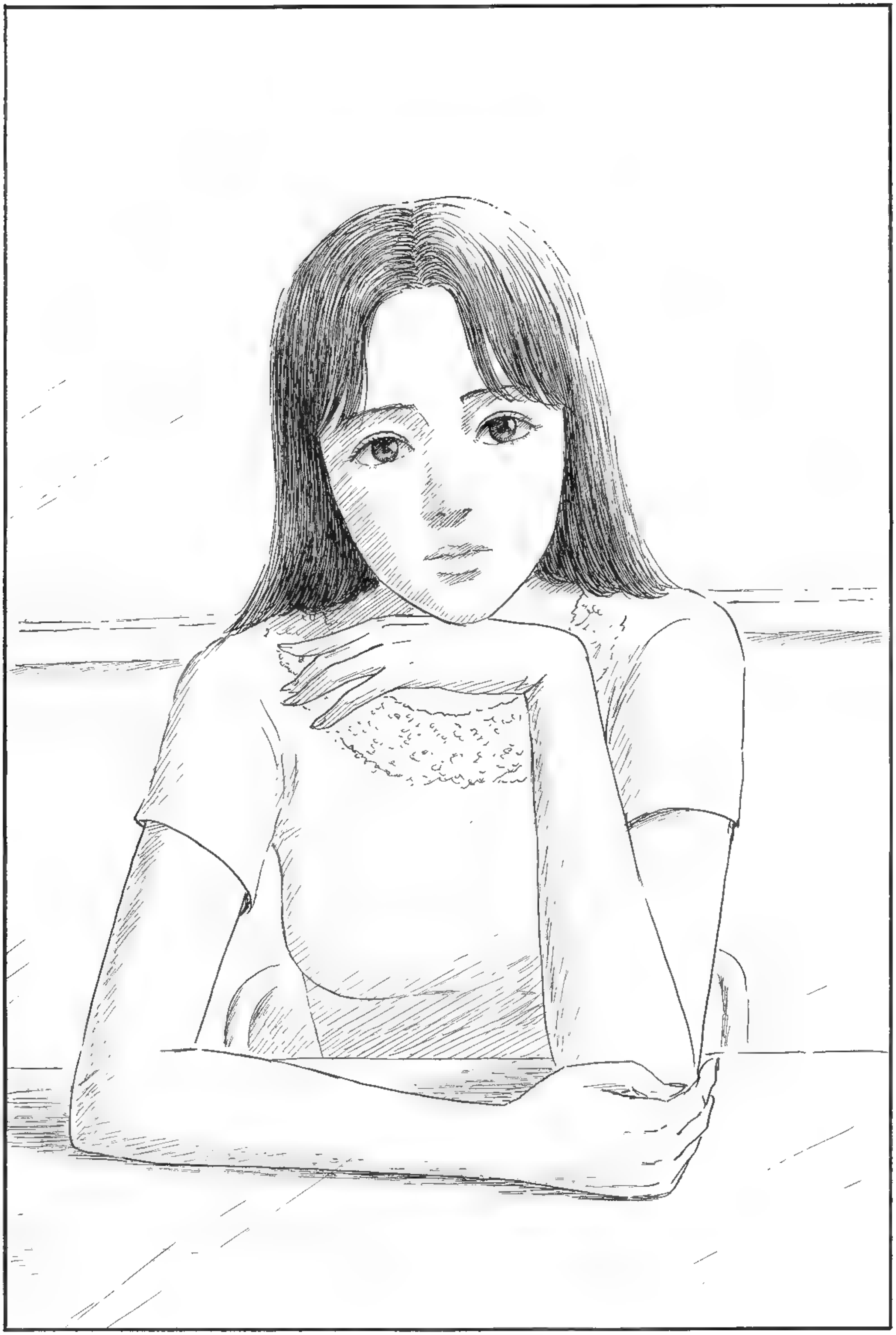

FAH
HFF

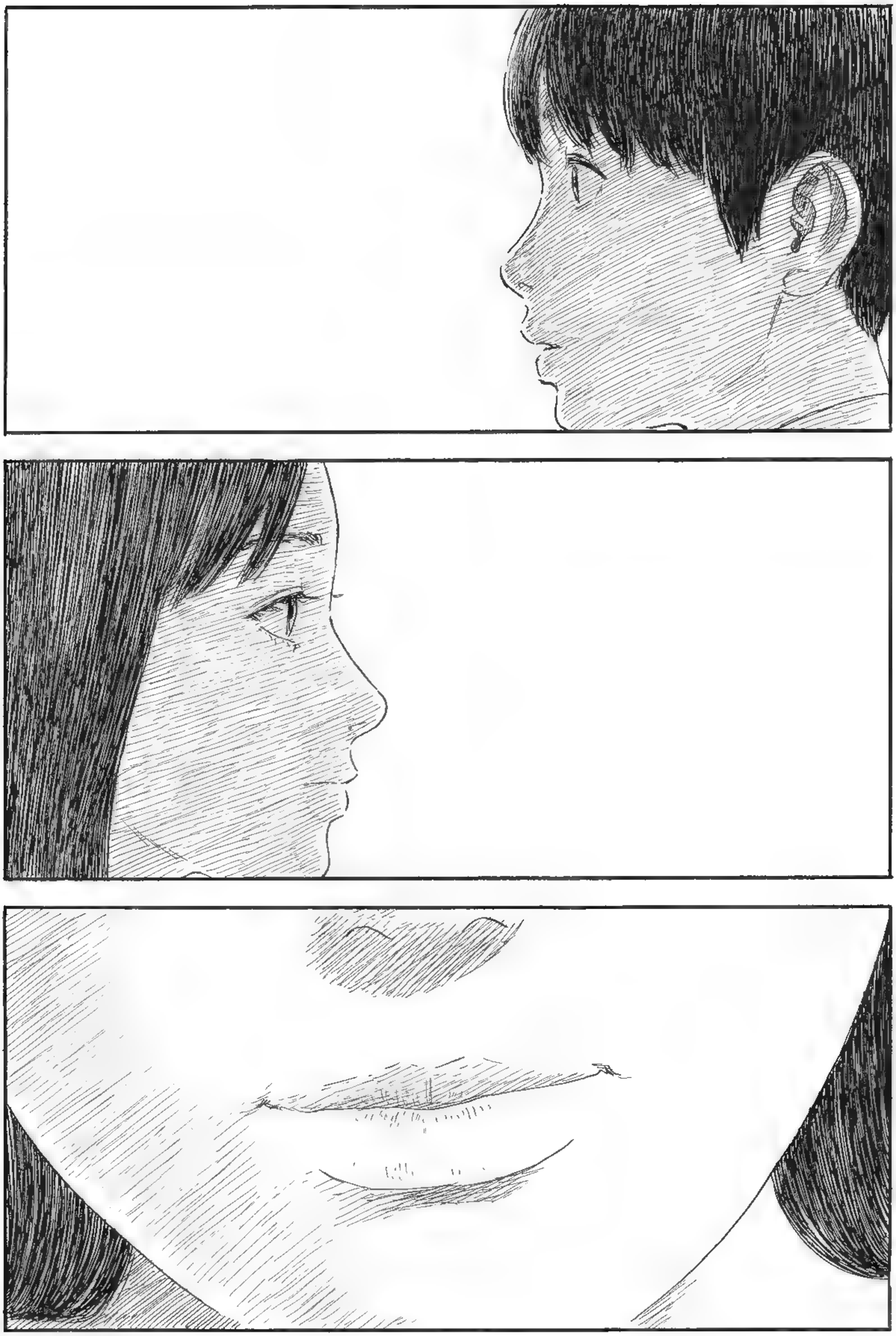

HFF

FAH

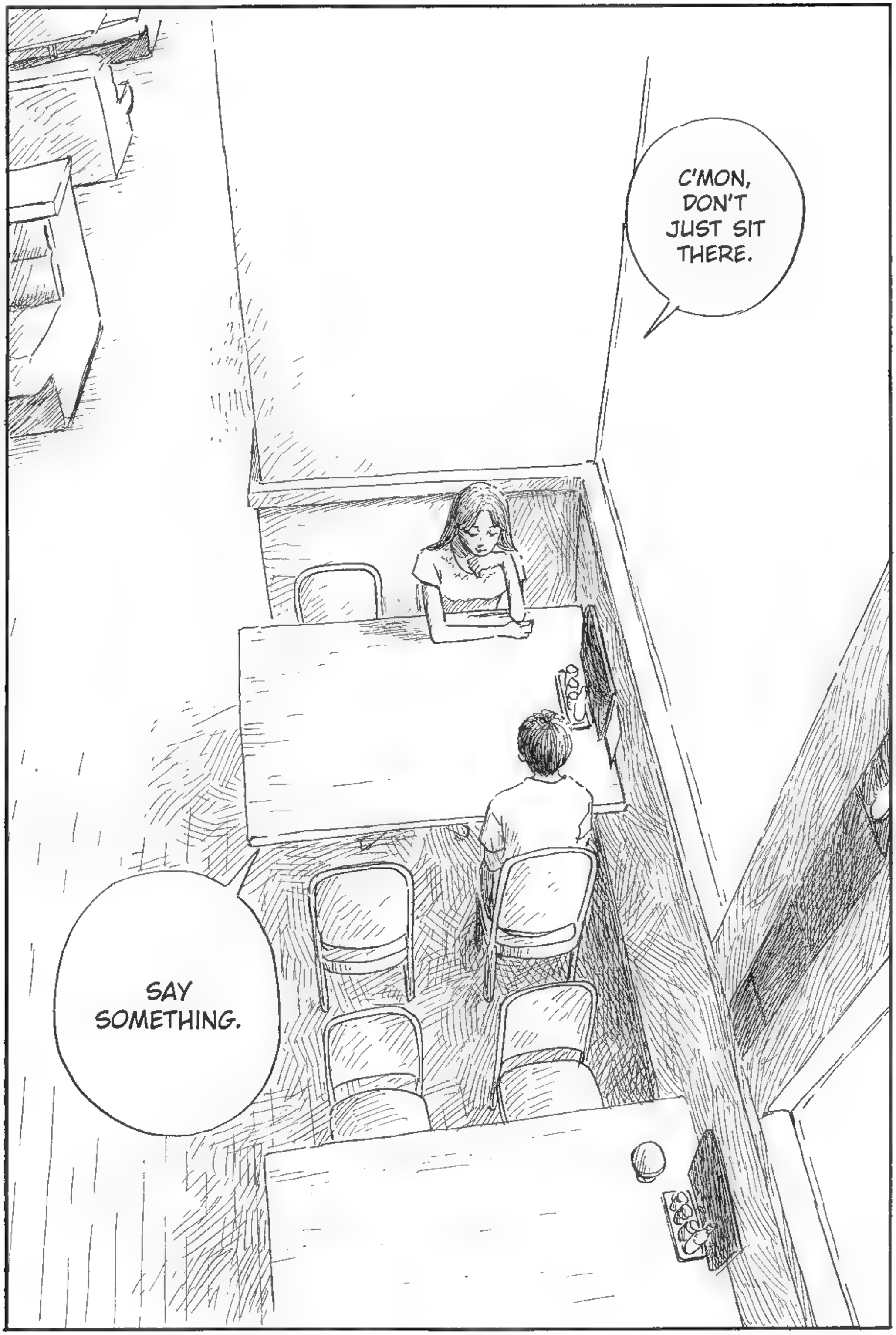


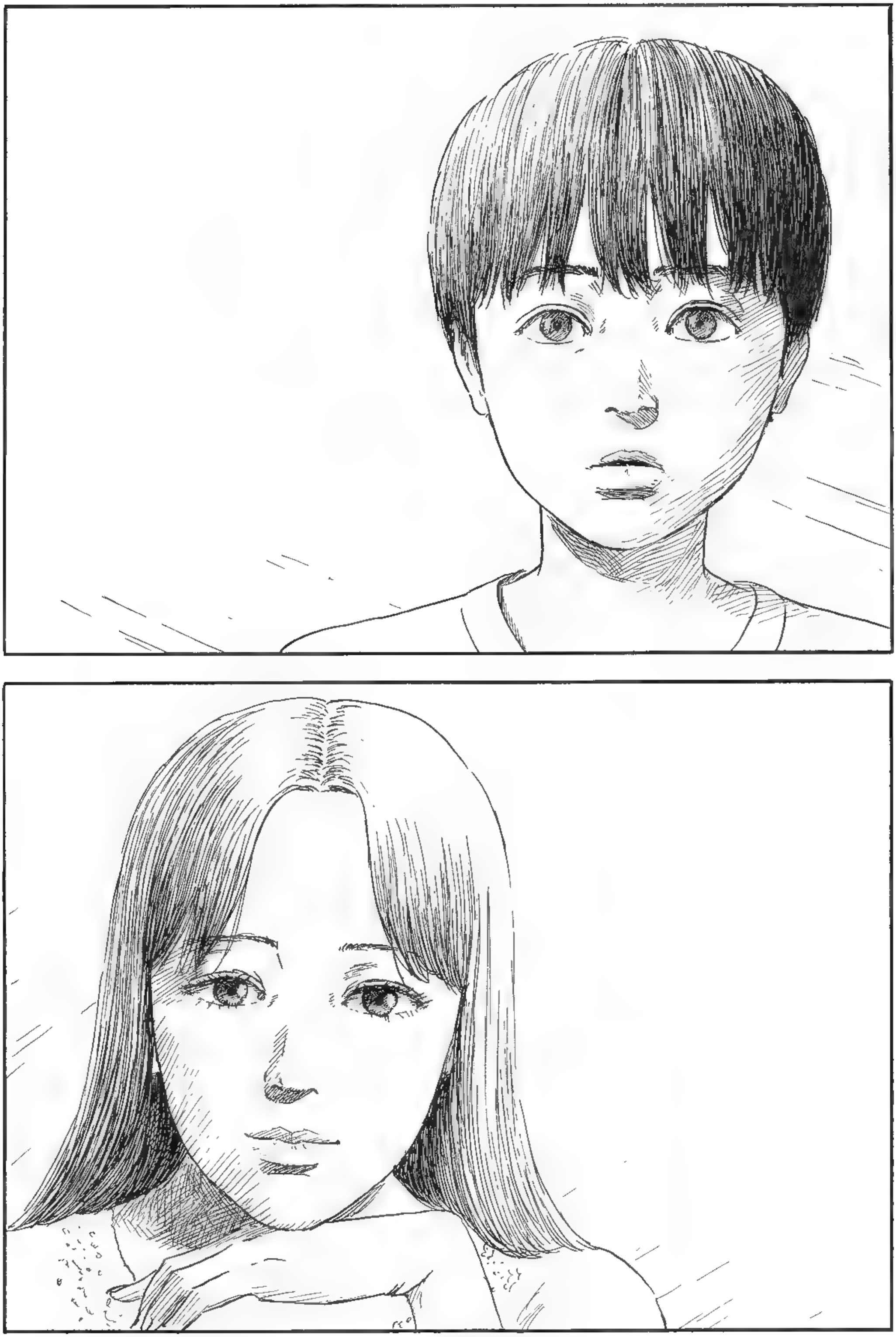






C'MON, DON'T JUST SIT THERE.
SAY SOMETHING.


C'MON, DON'T JUST SIT THERE.
SAY SOMETHING.



SILENT SEIICHI.
SAME AS EVER.
AND ALWAYS WITH THAT FACE.

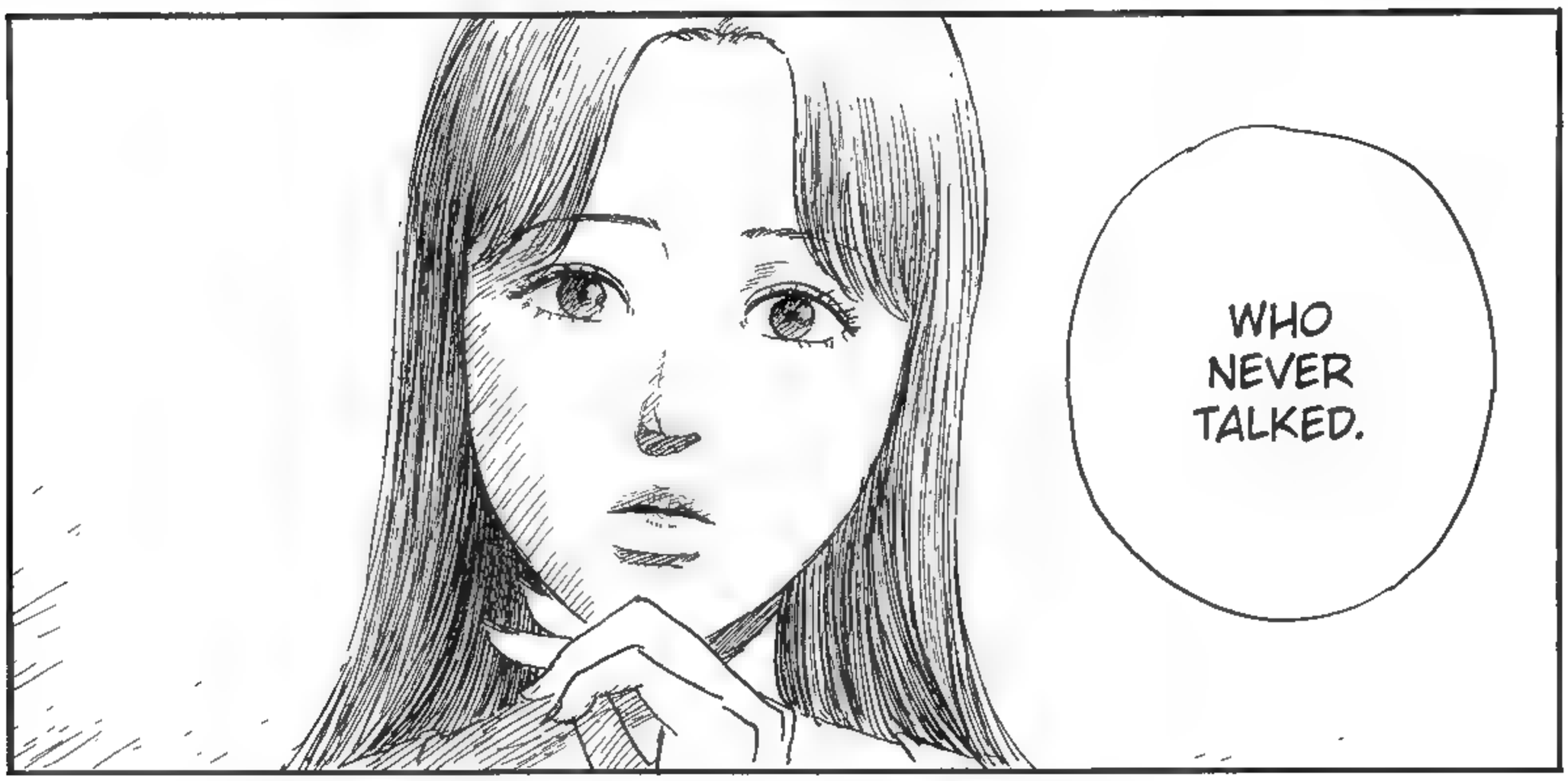
IT'S TOO MUCH!

YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO SERIOUS.

YOU AND ICHIRO AND EVERYONE.

NO ONE EVER TALKS.

WHO ALWAYS LOOKED SO SERIOUS.
...YOU'RE THE ONE

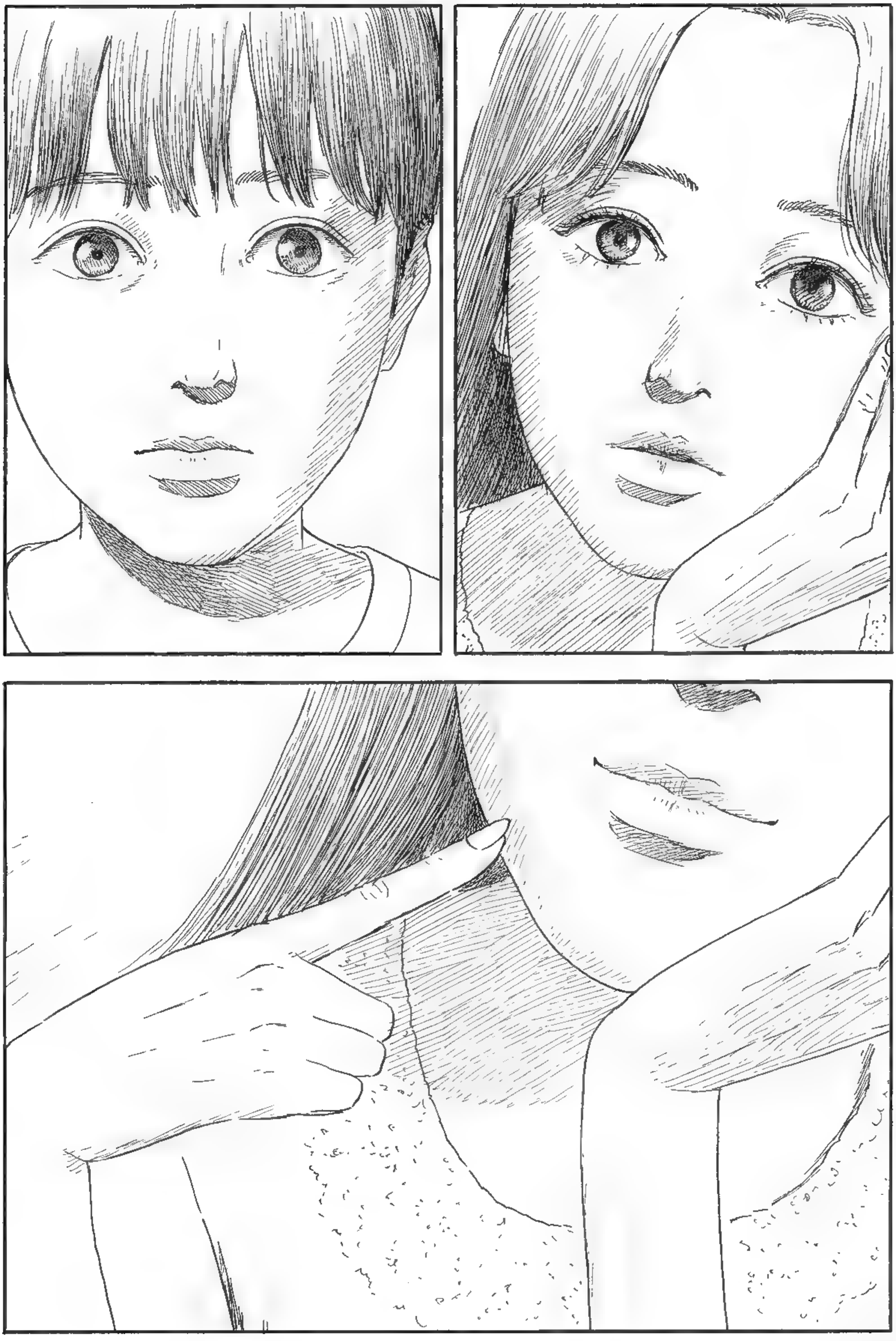

WHO NEVER TALKED.

TALKED.

I

...NO YOU DIDN'T.

NEVER.



ALL OF IT.

BUT IT WAS WRITTEN ON MY FACE.

NEVER TRIED TO LOOK PAST IT.

YOU TOOK IT ALL TO HEART SO EARNESTLY, SEI.

COULDN'T YOU SEE

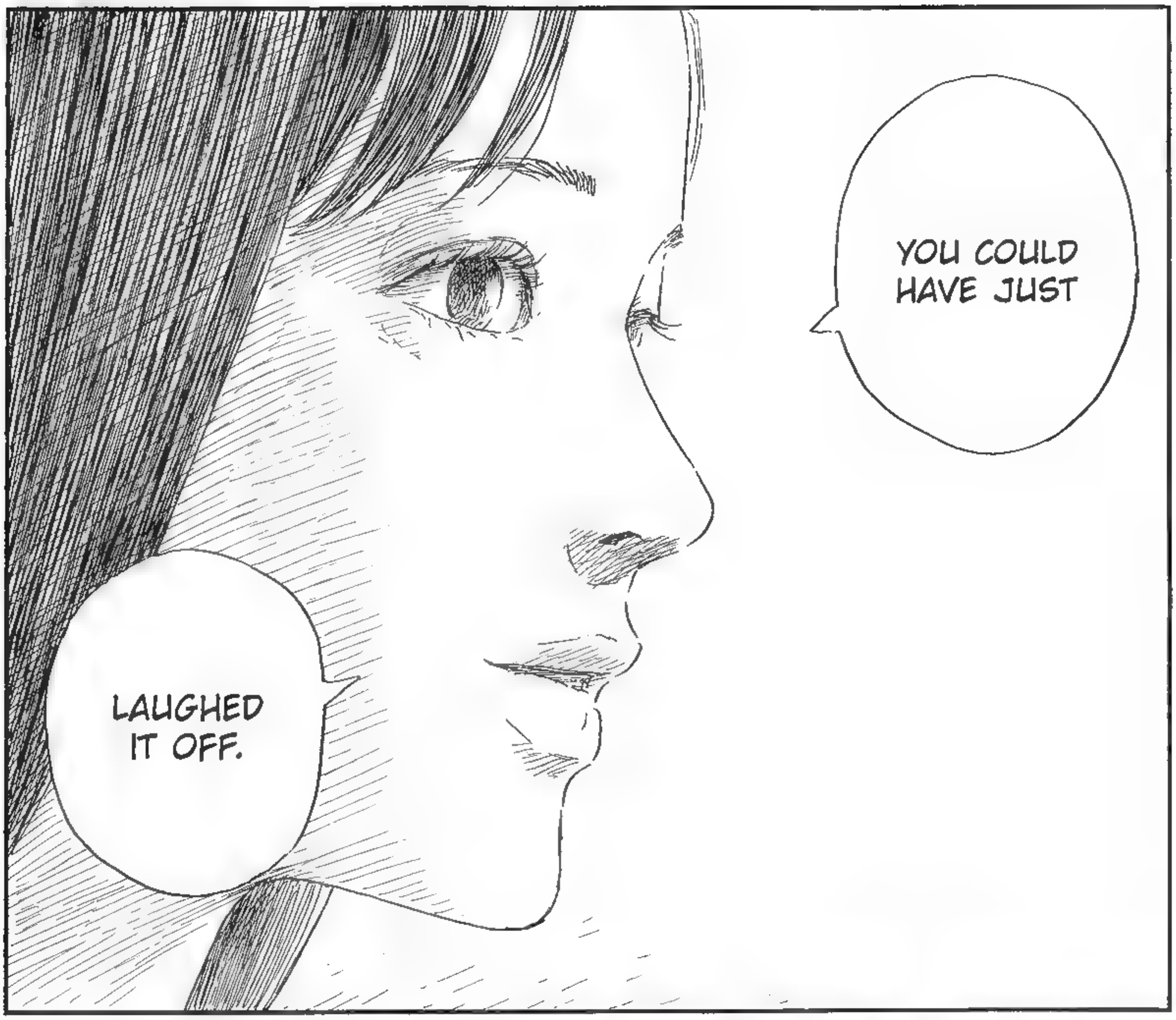
THAT THERE WAS NEVER ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT ME?

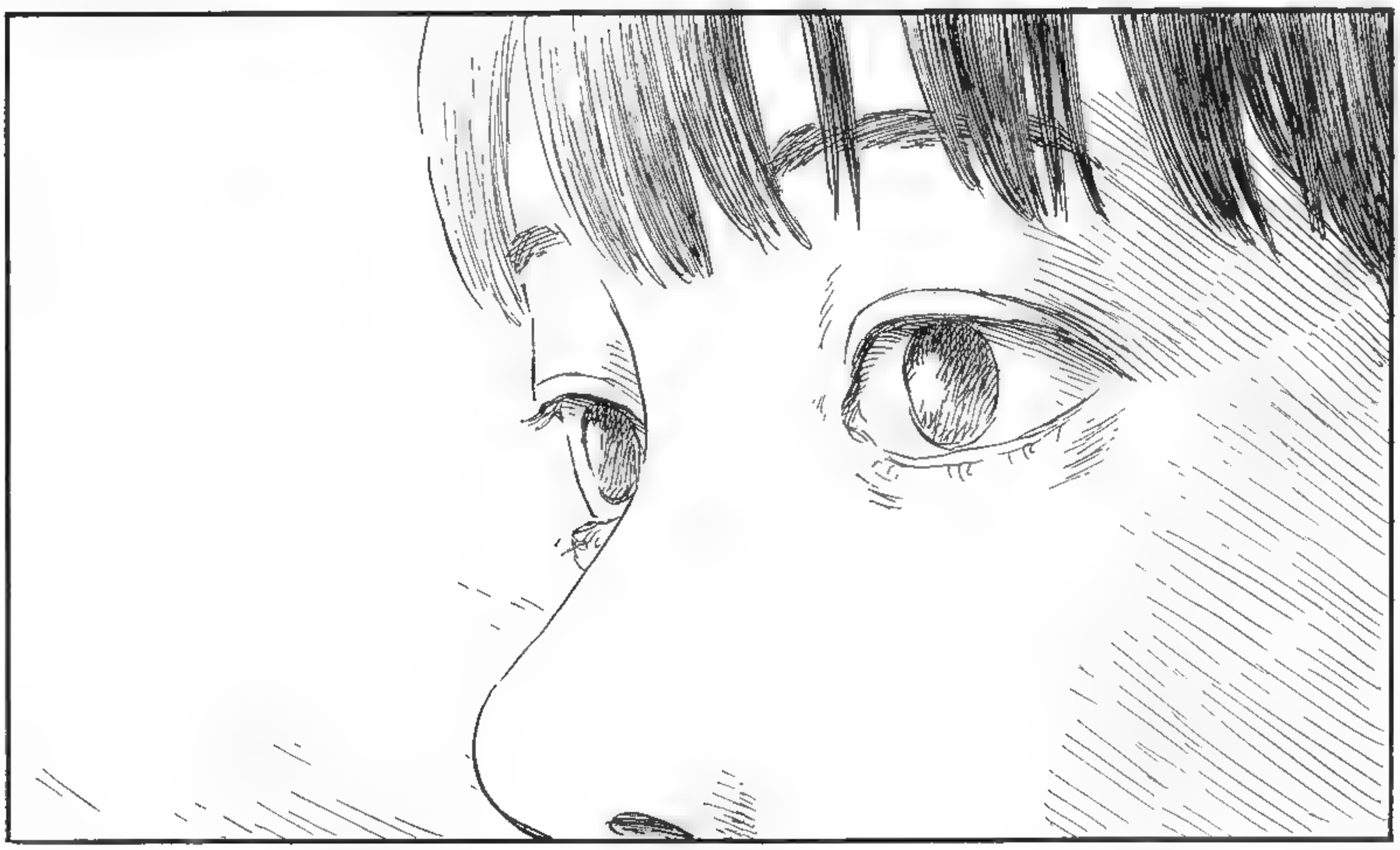
AT HOW STUPID I WAS BEING.

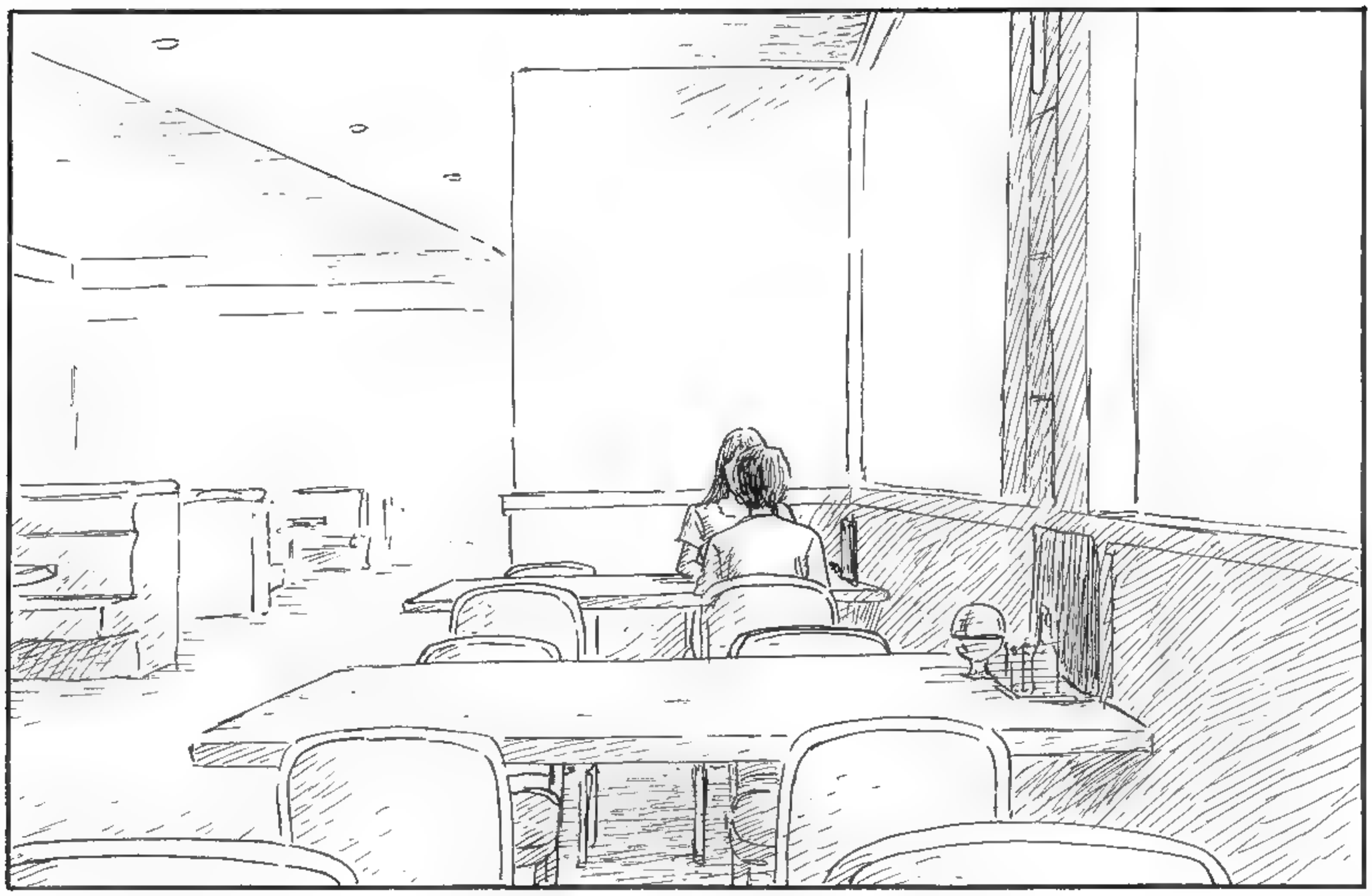
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST LAUGH?

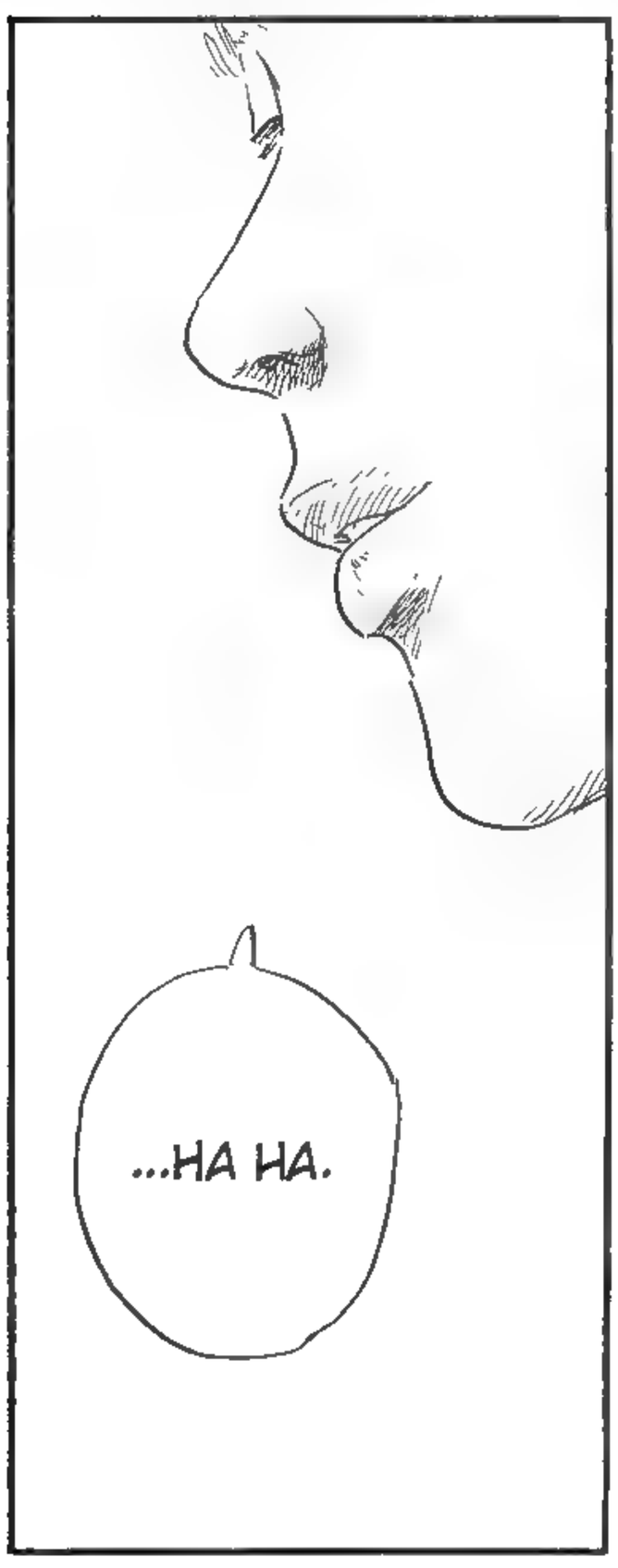
SCREAMING AND SHOUTING,

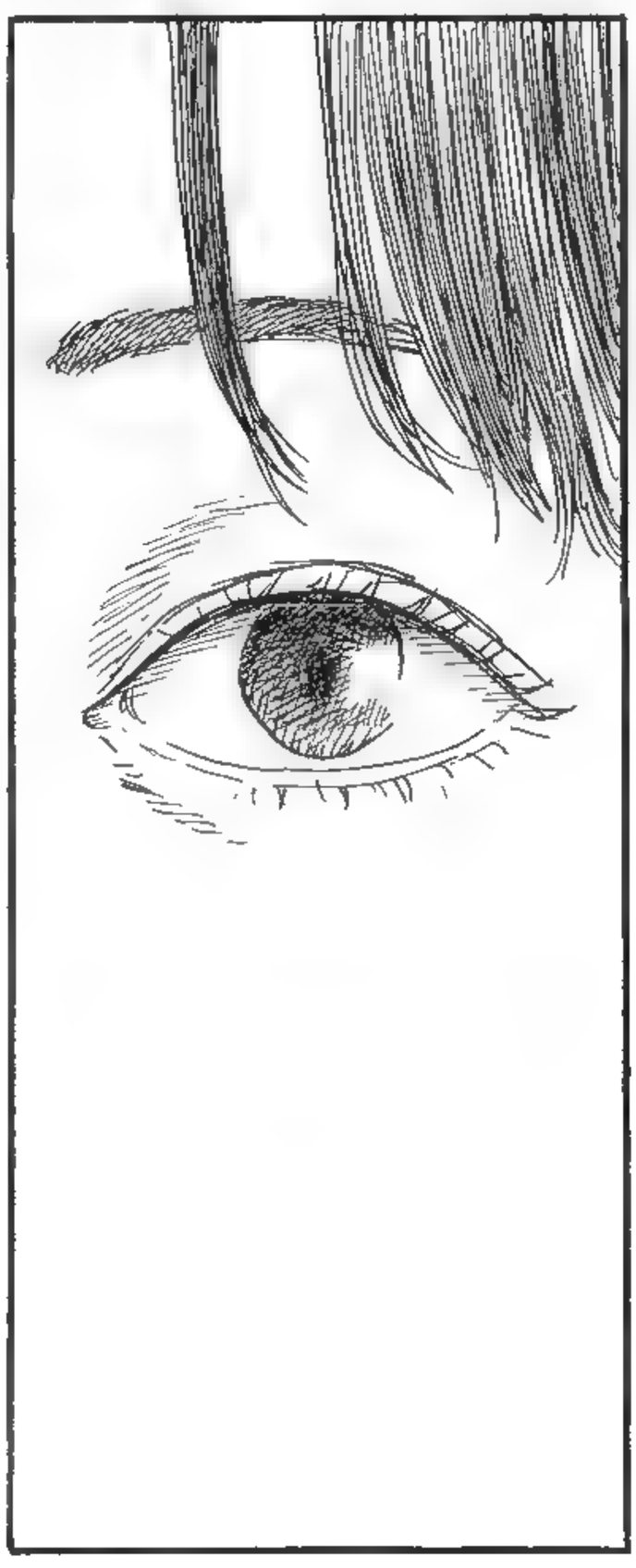
WHEN I WAS GOING CRAZY,

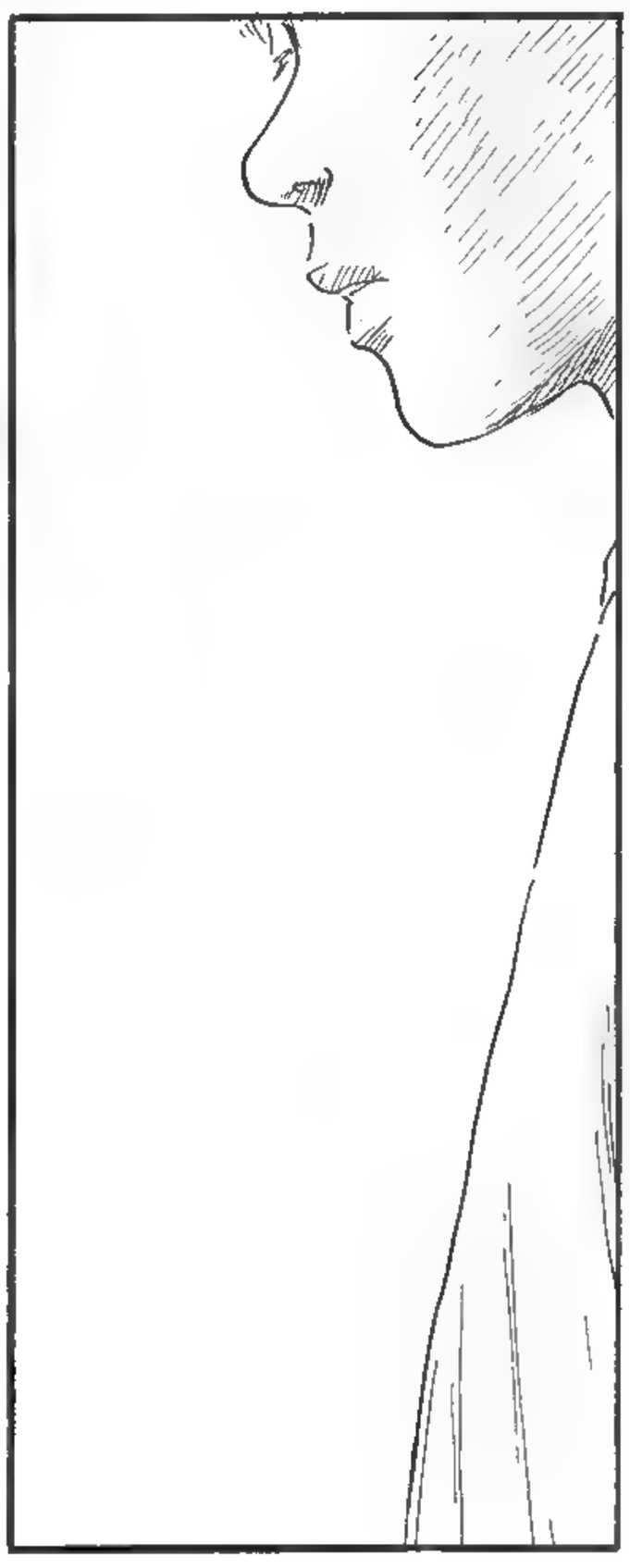

YOU COULD HAVE JUST
LAUGHED IT OFF.





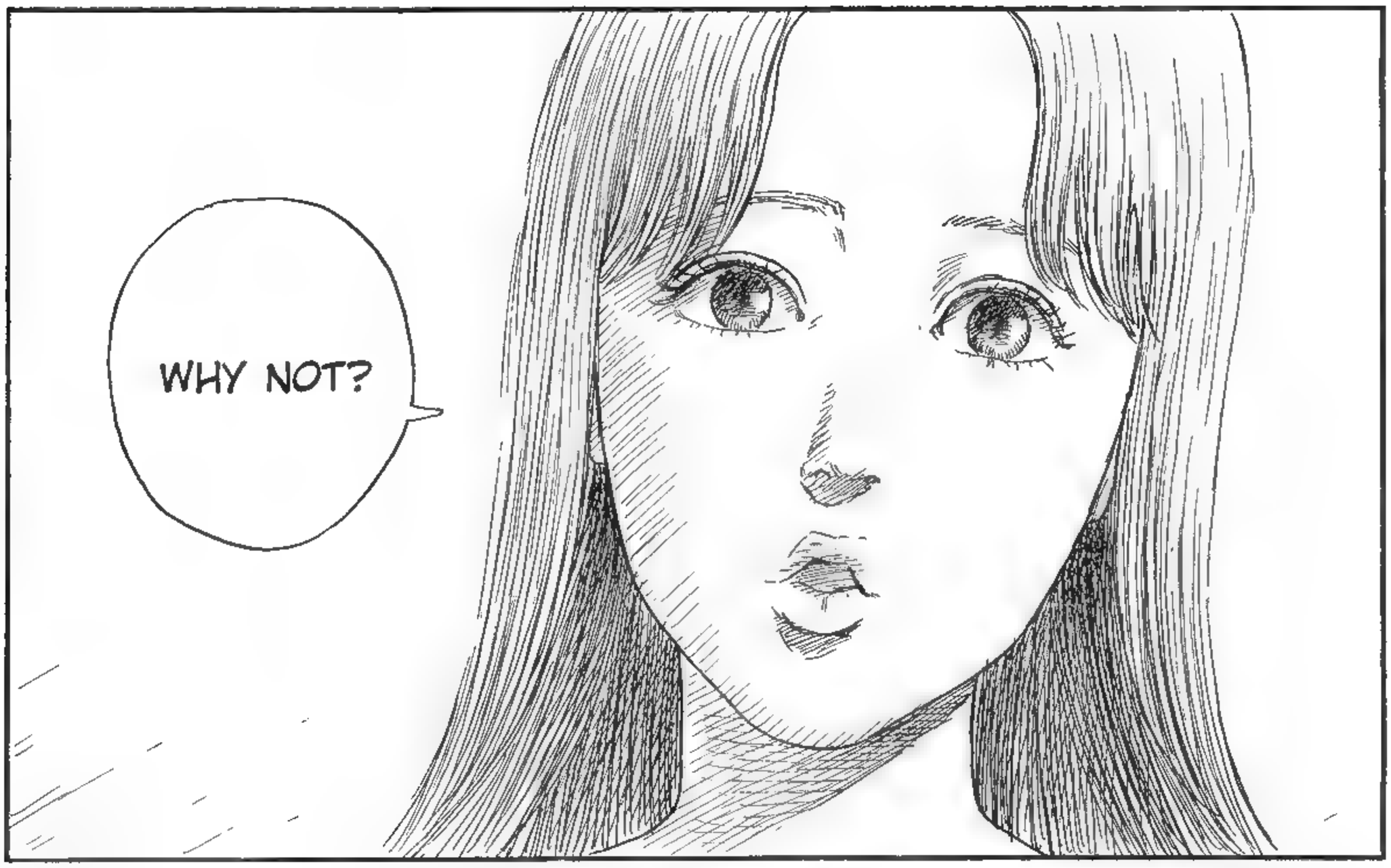

...HA HA.

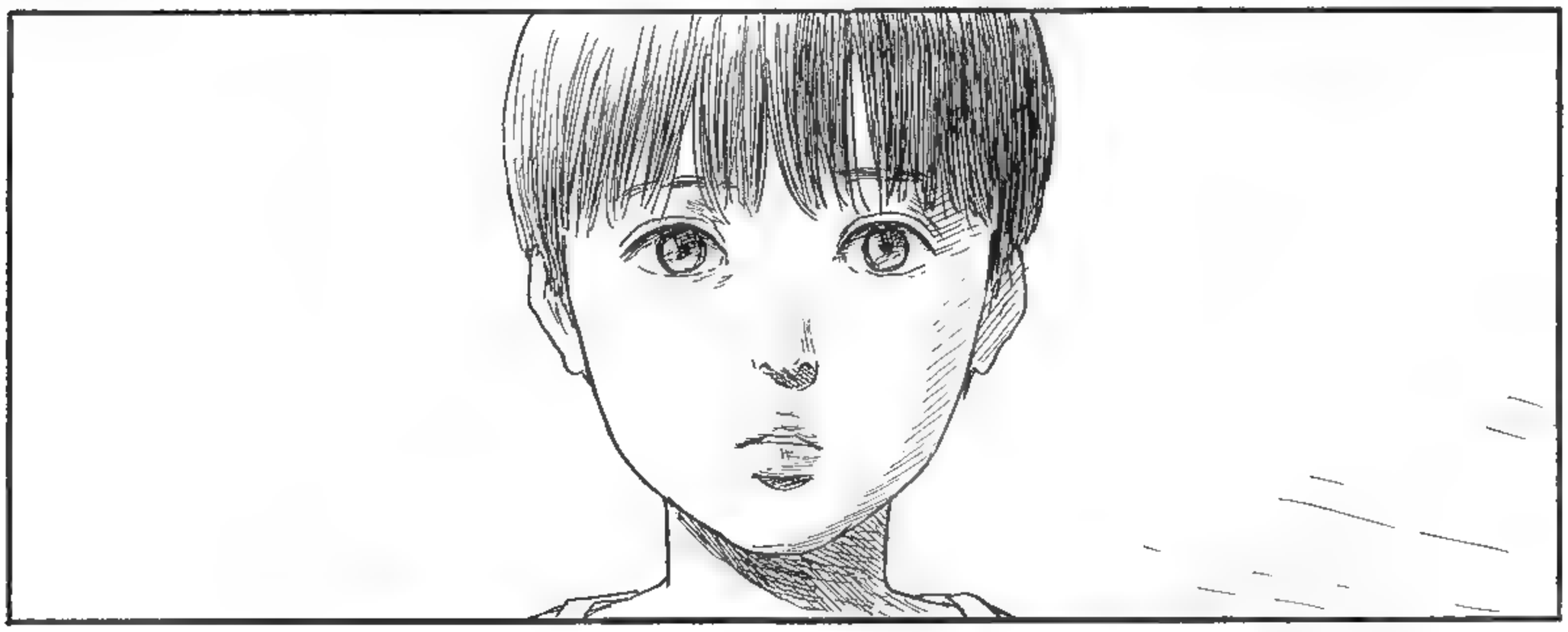


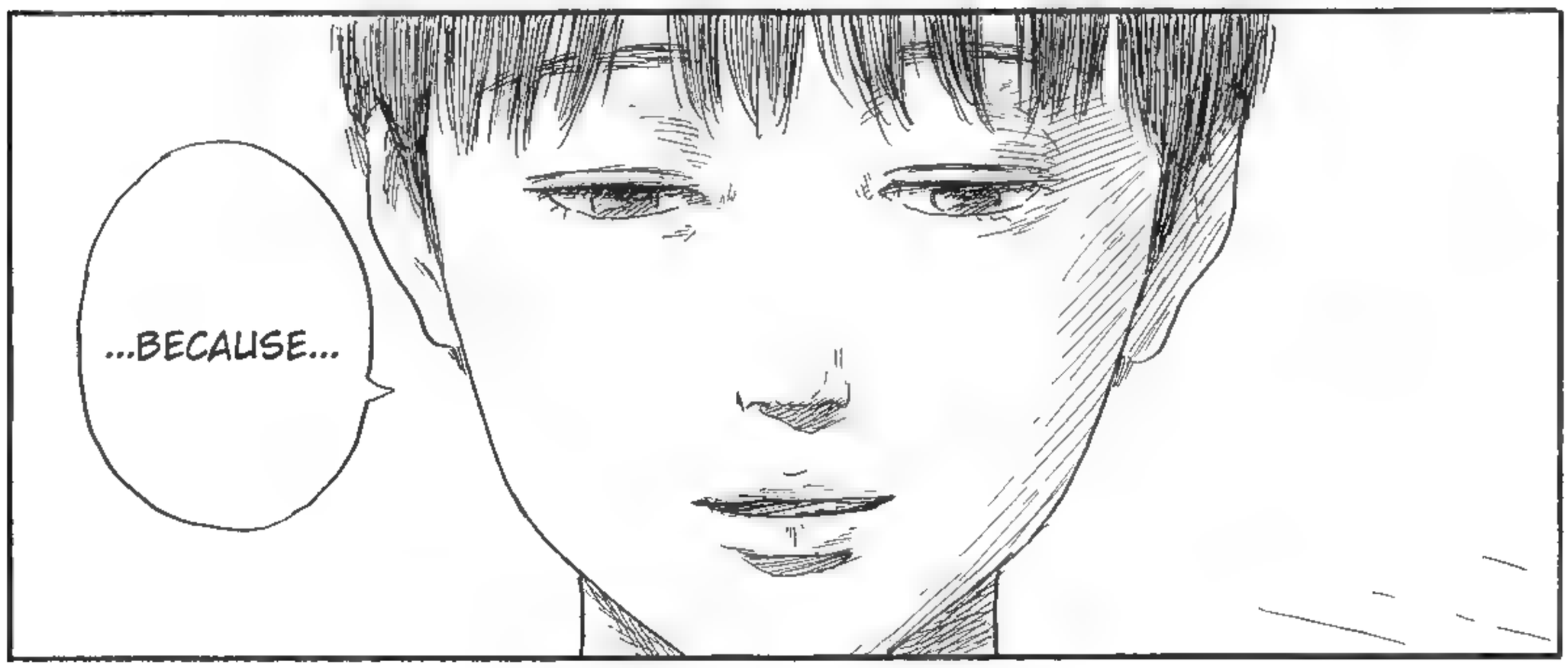


...NO WAY, NOT ME.

I COULD NEVER HAVE DONE THAT.


WHY NOT?




...BECAUSE...

I NEEDED YOU TO LOVE ME.

I WAS A KID... AND I WAS DESPERATE.

I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT NOT LOVE ME.

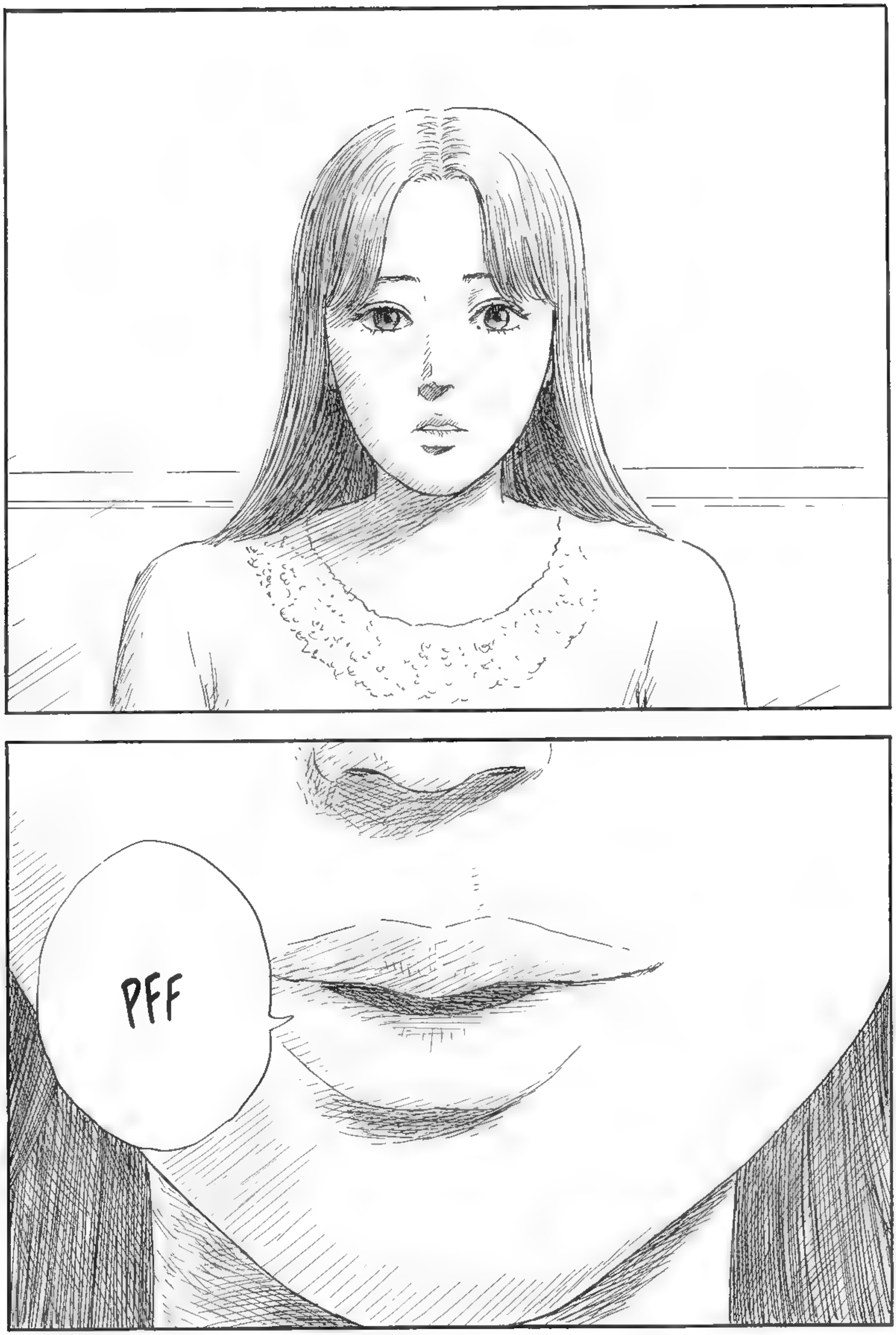
AND I HATED YOU FOR NOT LOVING ME.

AND THE GUILT I FELT ALMOST KILLED ME.

I KILLED YOU INSIDE MY HEAD,

LAUGH IT OFF?

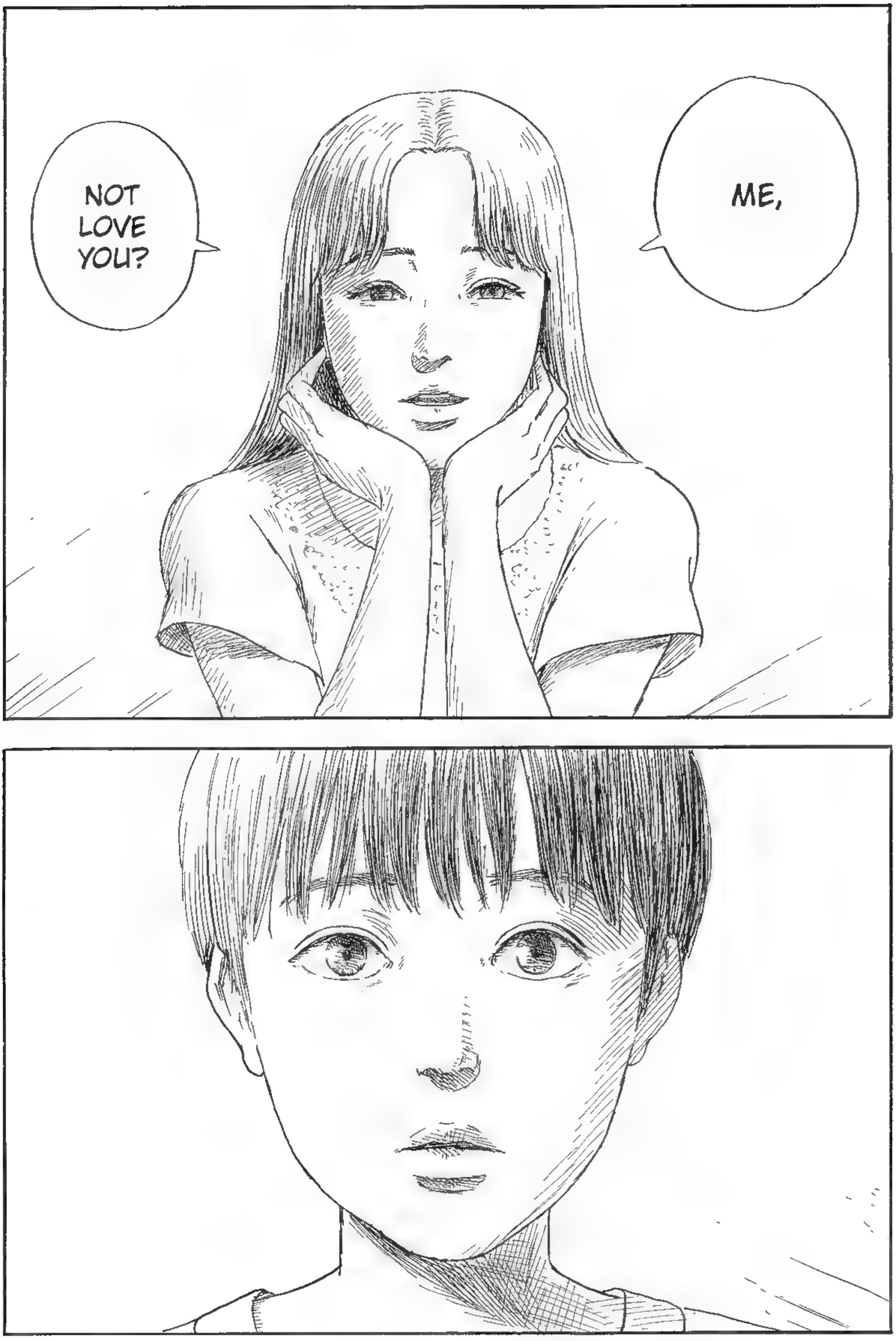
I MEAN, THAT NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO ME.


PFF

BUT THAT'S SO DUMB!

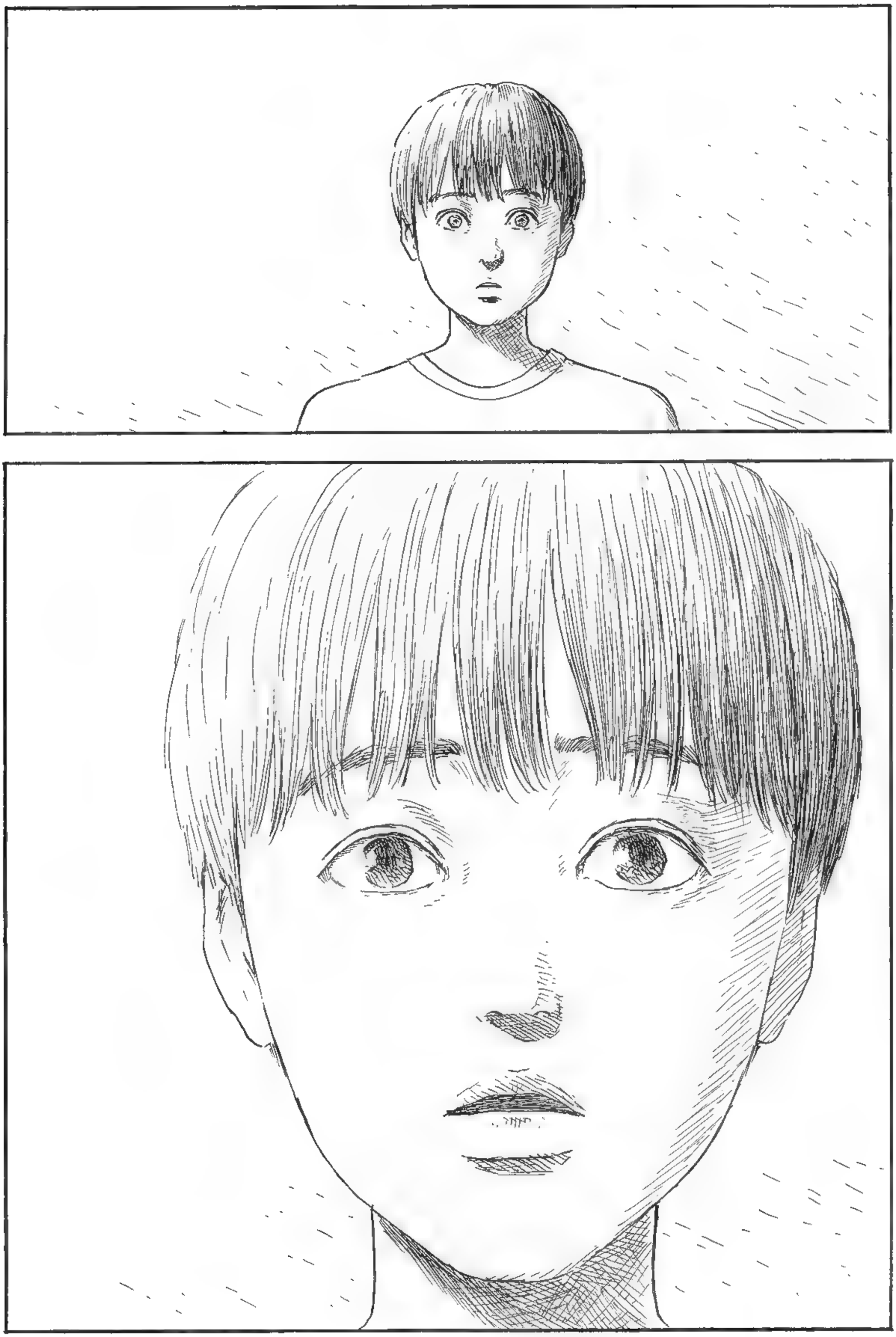
AH HA HA HA HA

WHFFFF...


NOT LOVE YOU?
ME,

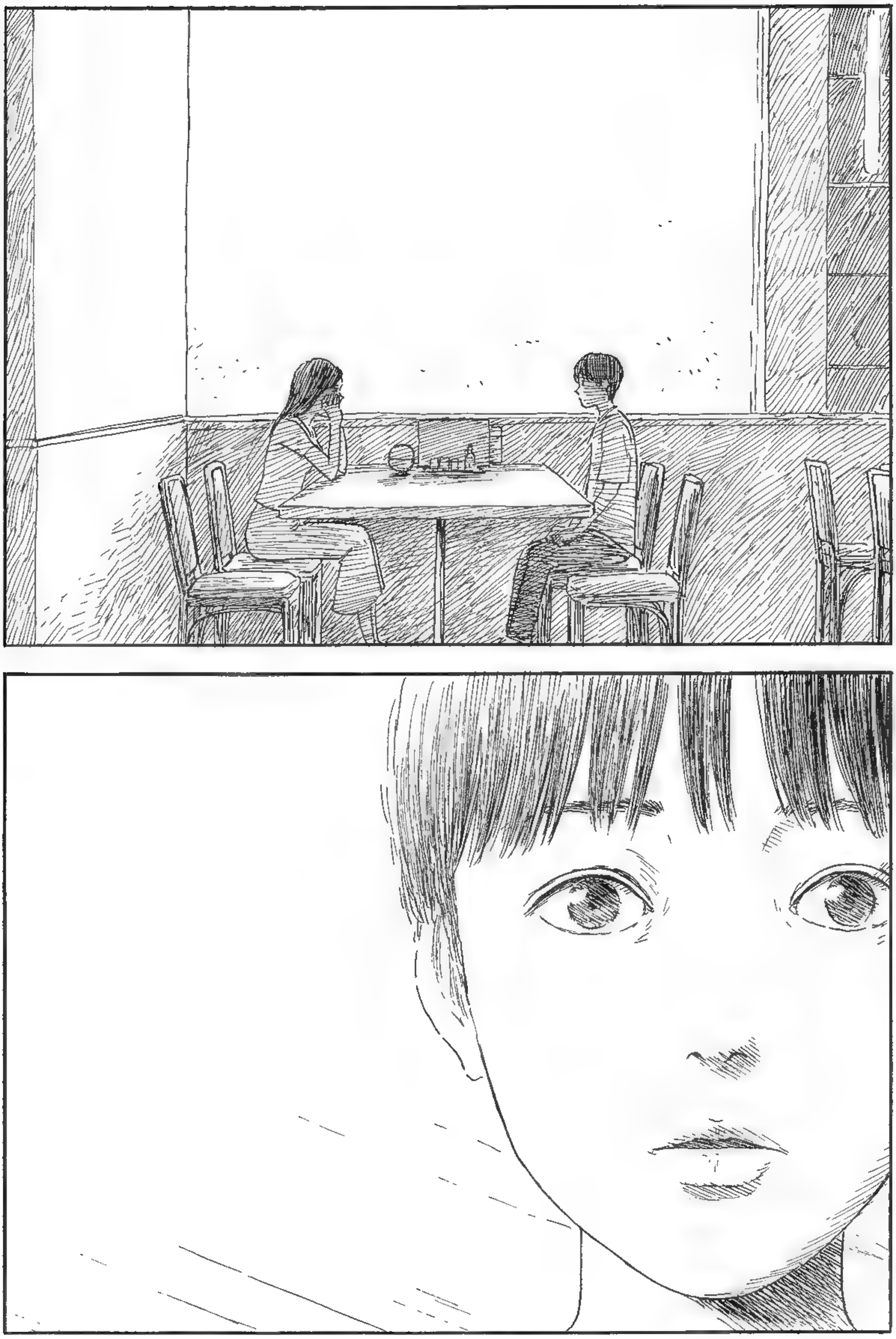
LOVED YOU.

I ALWAYS



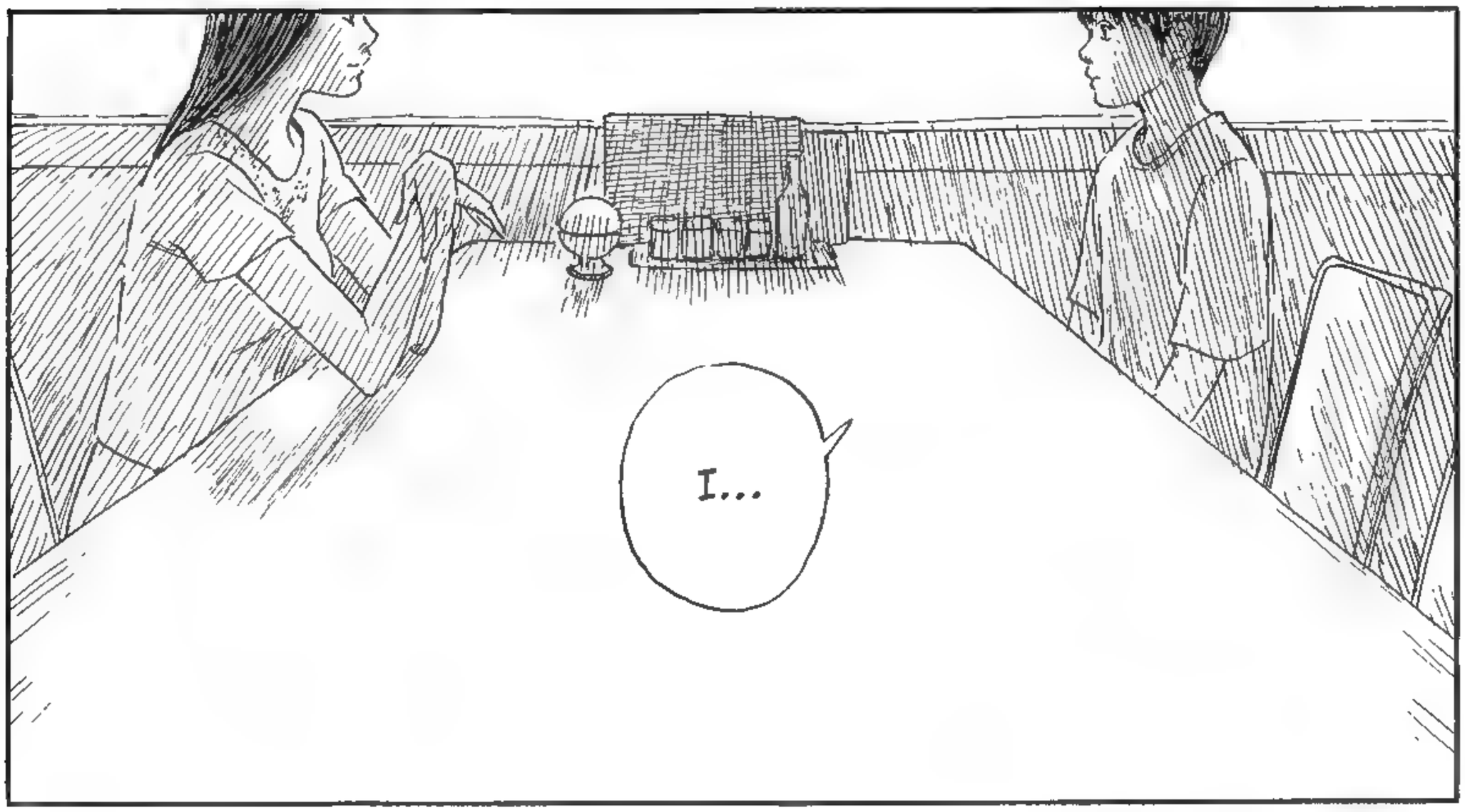
"I always

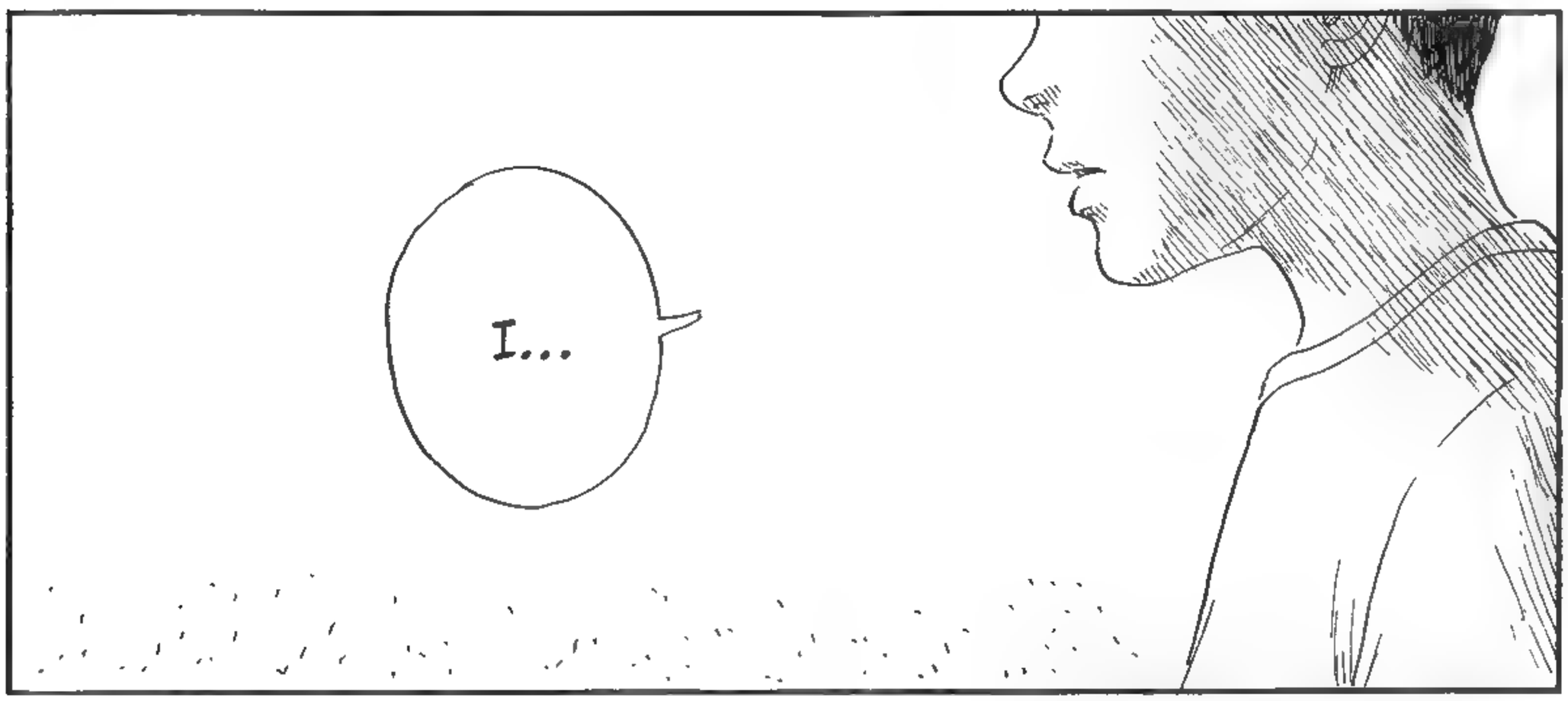
loved you."

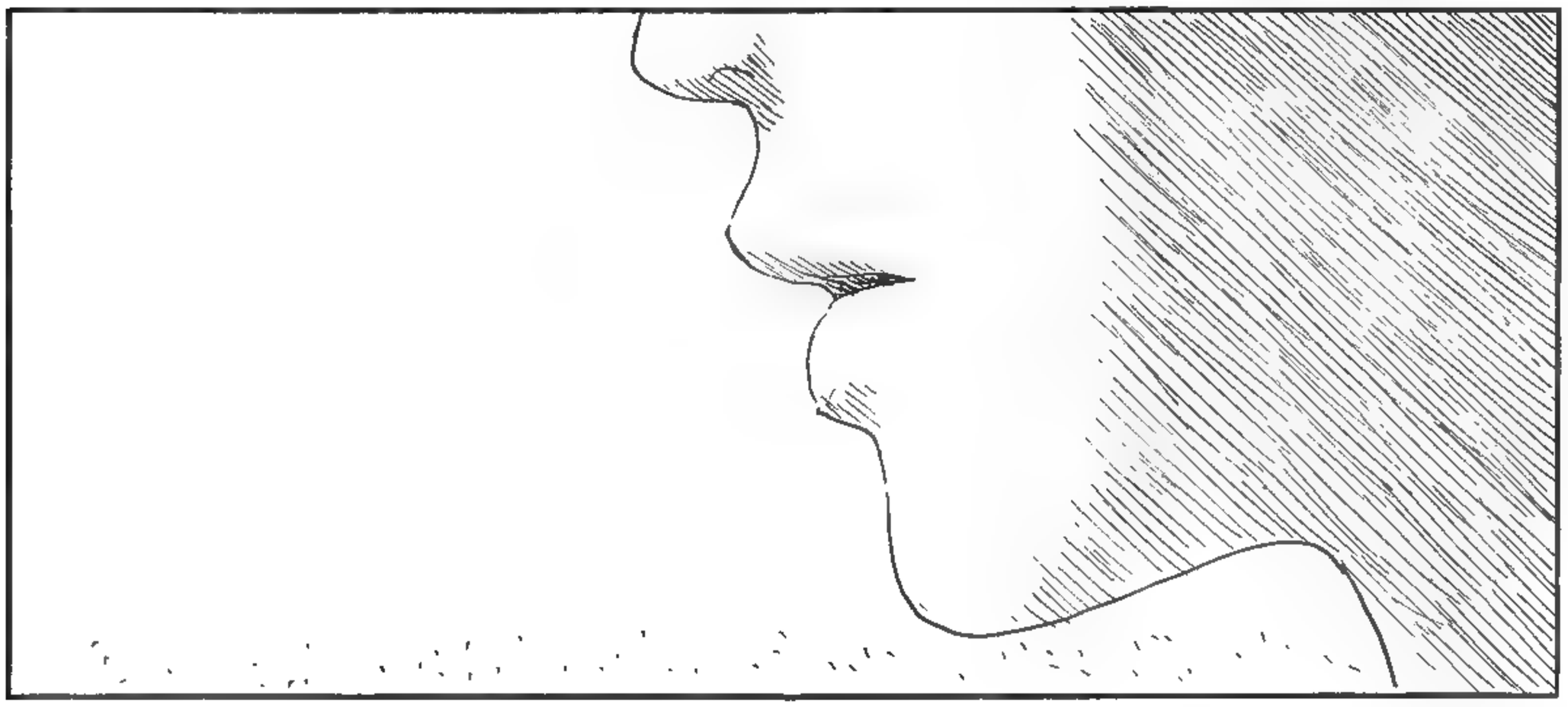


...OH.

I GUESS SO, HUH.

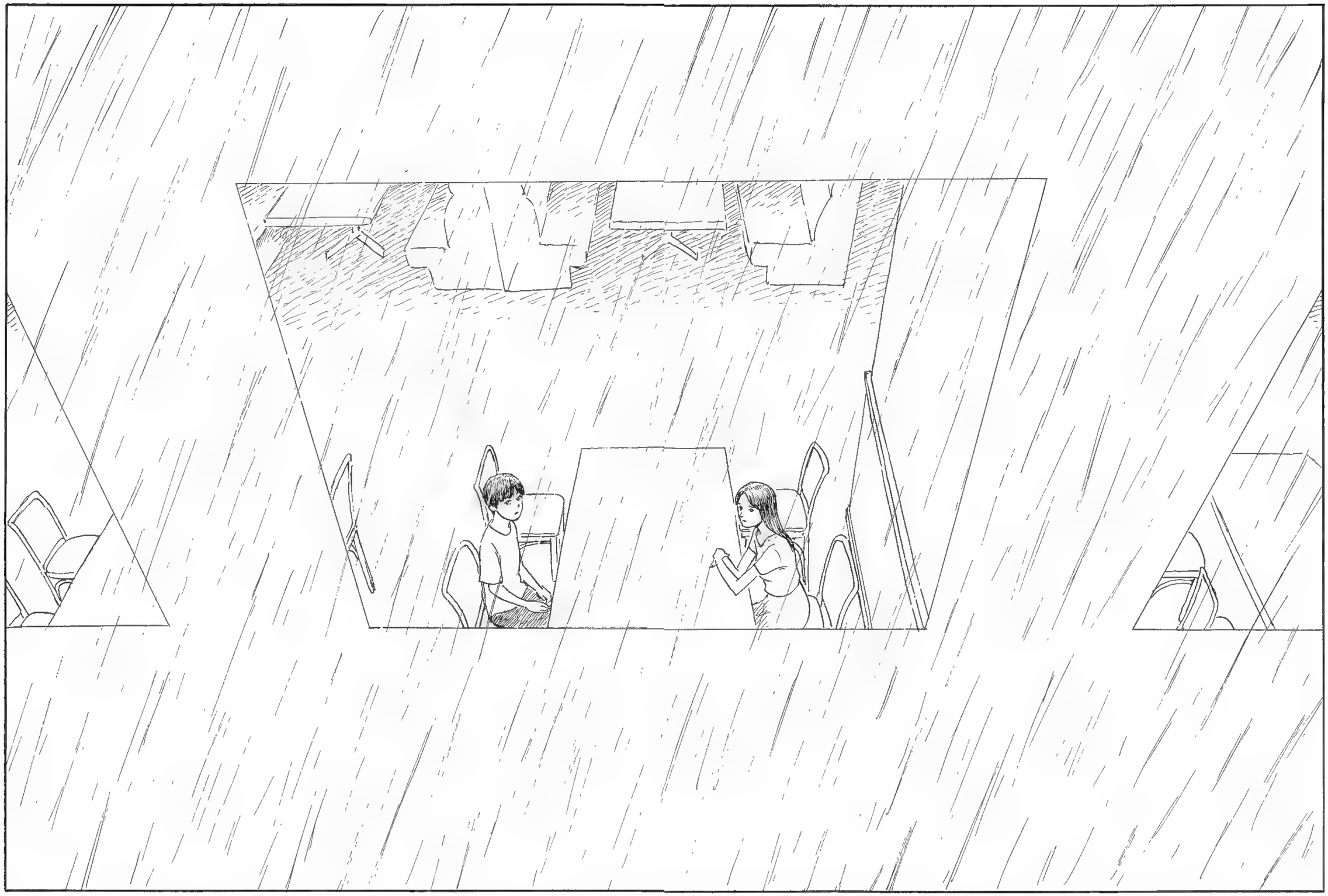

I...


I...



I

I LOVE YOU, TOO.



AH...

WHEN I WAS A KID...

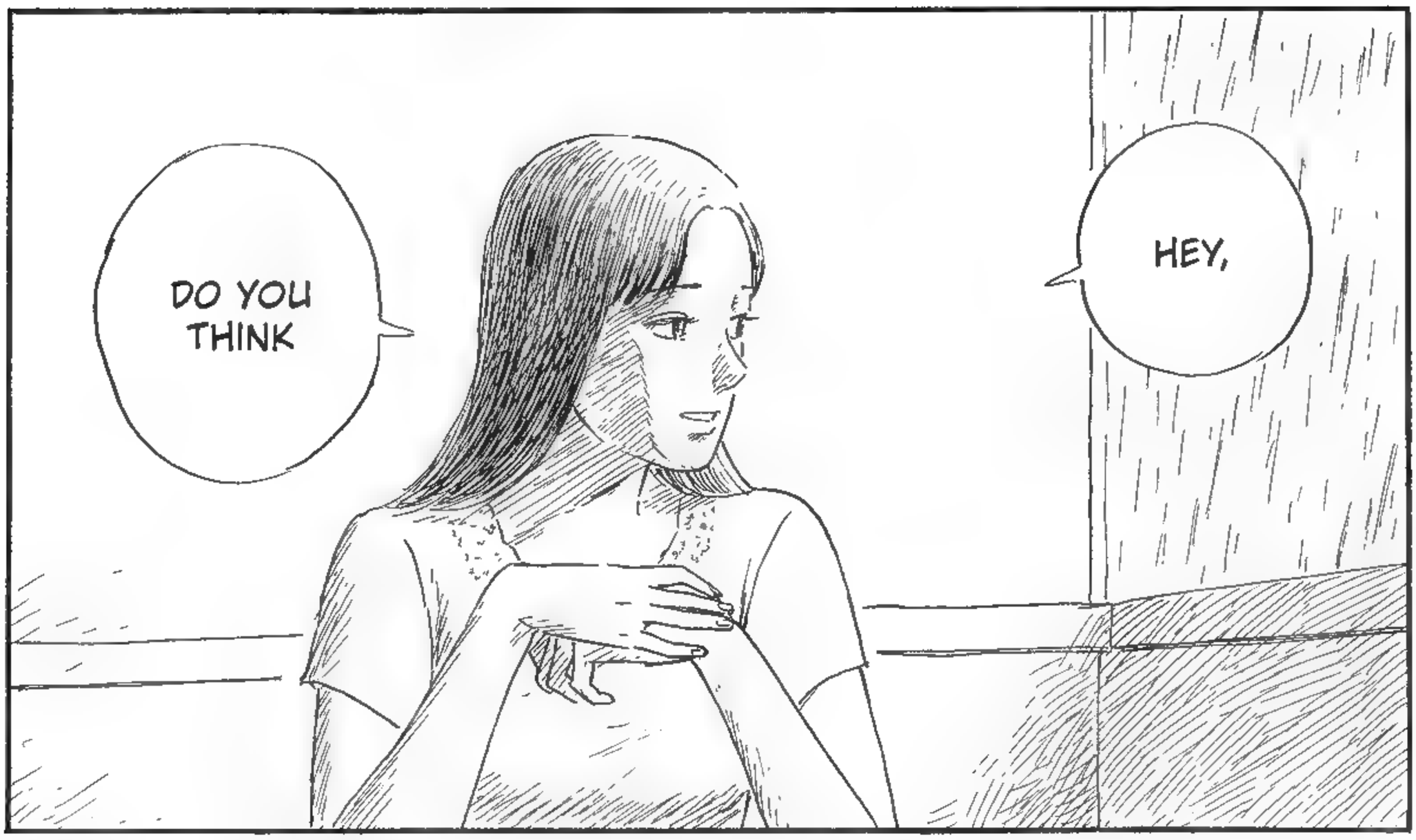
WE HAD PASSING SHOWERS LIKE THIS A LOT, DIDN'T WE?

...YUP.

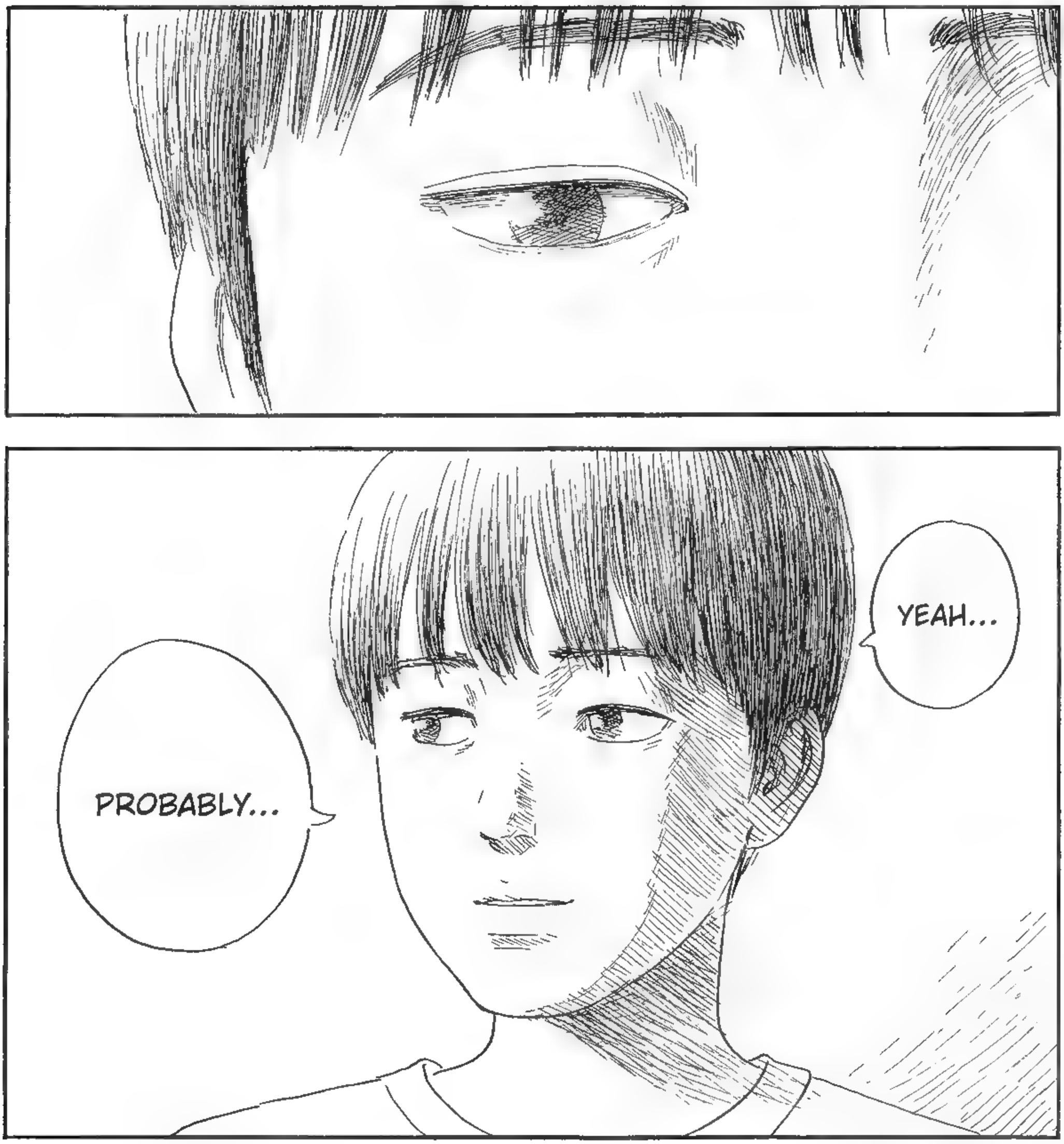
SURE DID.

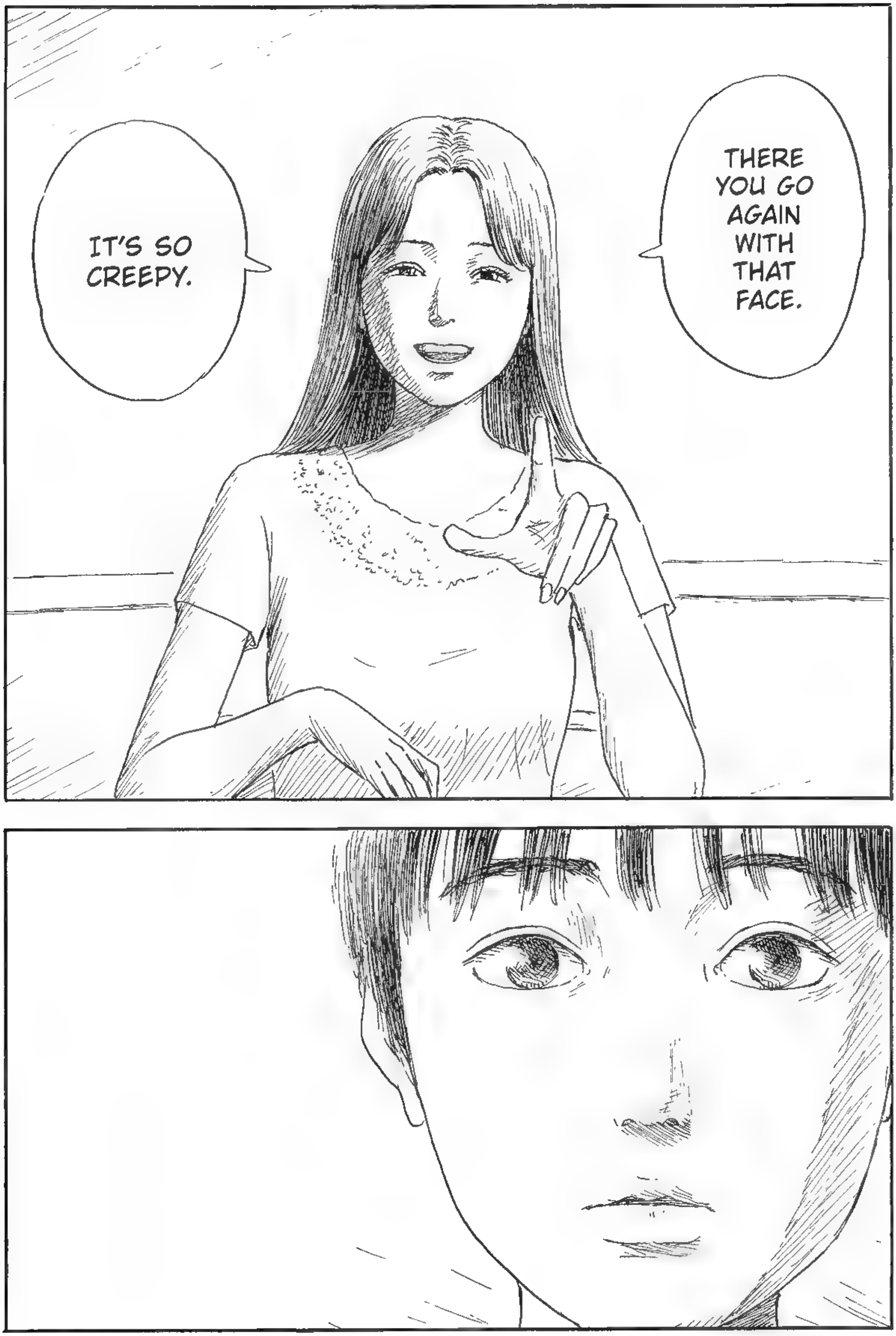
OVER

ALMOST BEFORE THEY START.


DO YOU THINK
HEY,

MORE WISH FULFILLMENT?
THIS IS JUST ANOTHER DREAM YOU'RE HAVING?


YEAH...
PROBABLY...


IT'S SO CREEPY.
THERE YOU GO AGAIN WITH THAT FACE.

WHO'S CREEPY.
YOU'RE THE ONE

RIGHT?

I'M THE CREEPIEST MOM EVER!

HA!

YOU SAID IT, NOT ME!

HEE HEE HEE

AH HA HA HA HA HA HA

FUCK OFF AND DIE.
FUCK YOU.
I HOPE YOU GO TO HELL!
YOU WERE A SHITTY MOM.

JEEZ, WHAT KIND OF A SON ARE YOU?

AH HA HA HA HA

YOU'RE NO SON OF MINE.

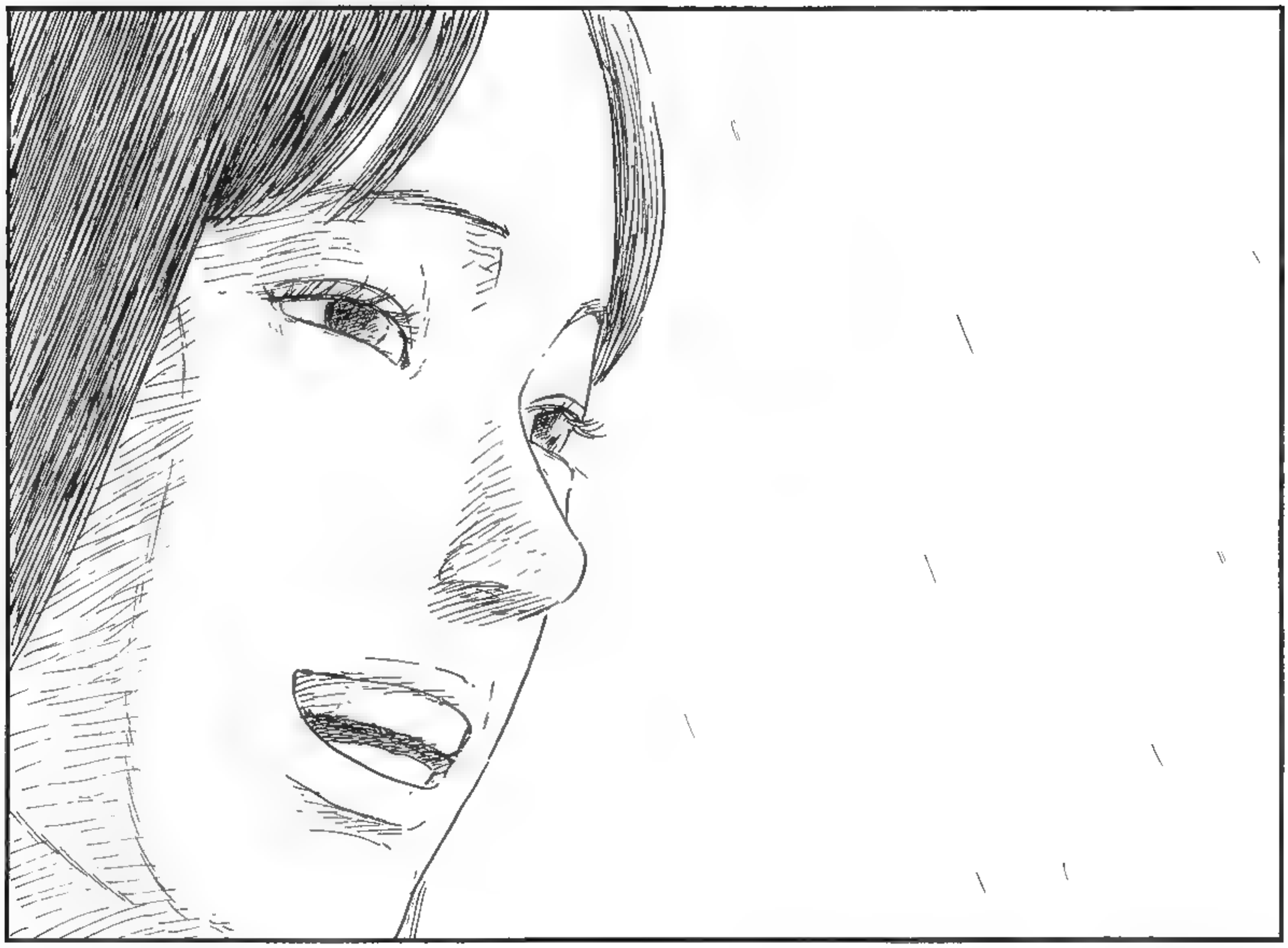
I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING,

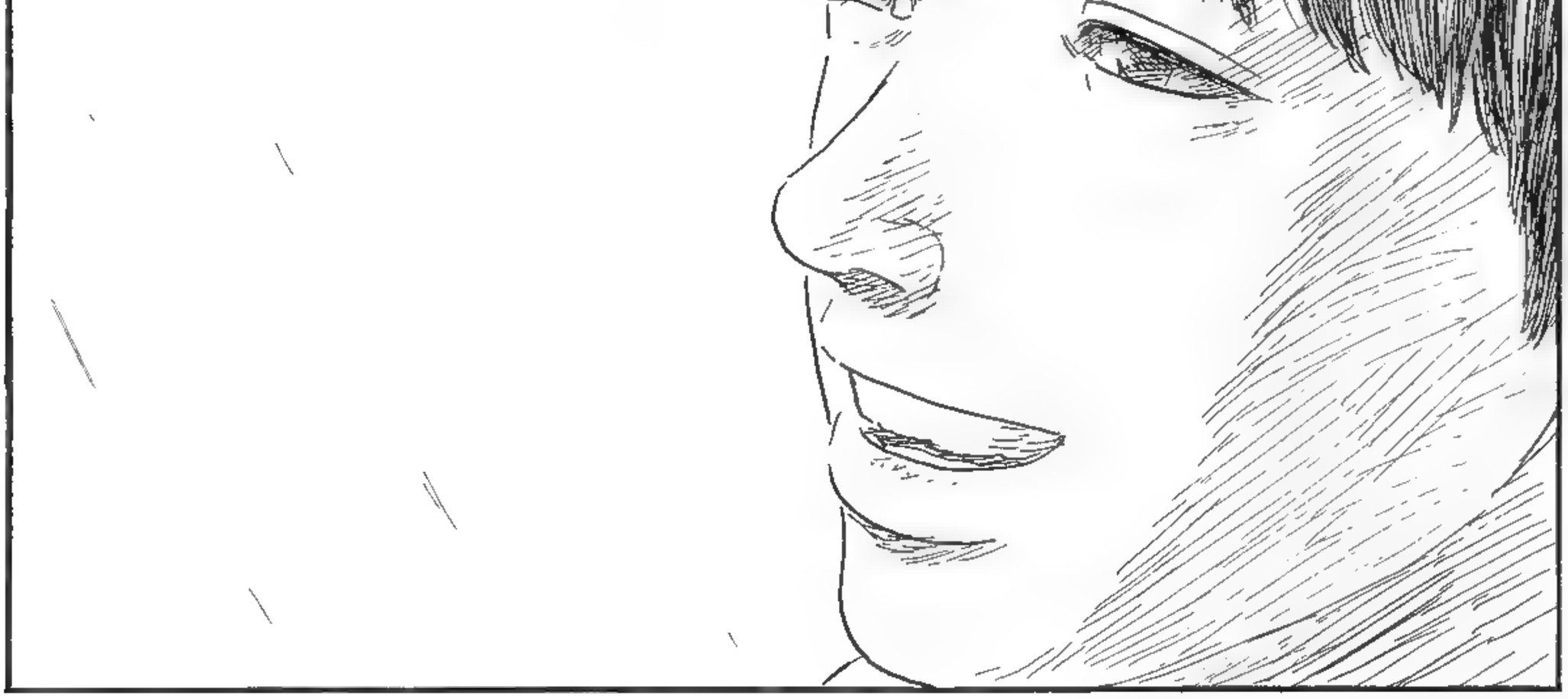
REALLY ?!

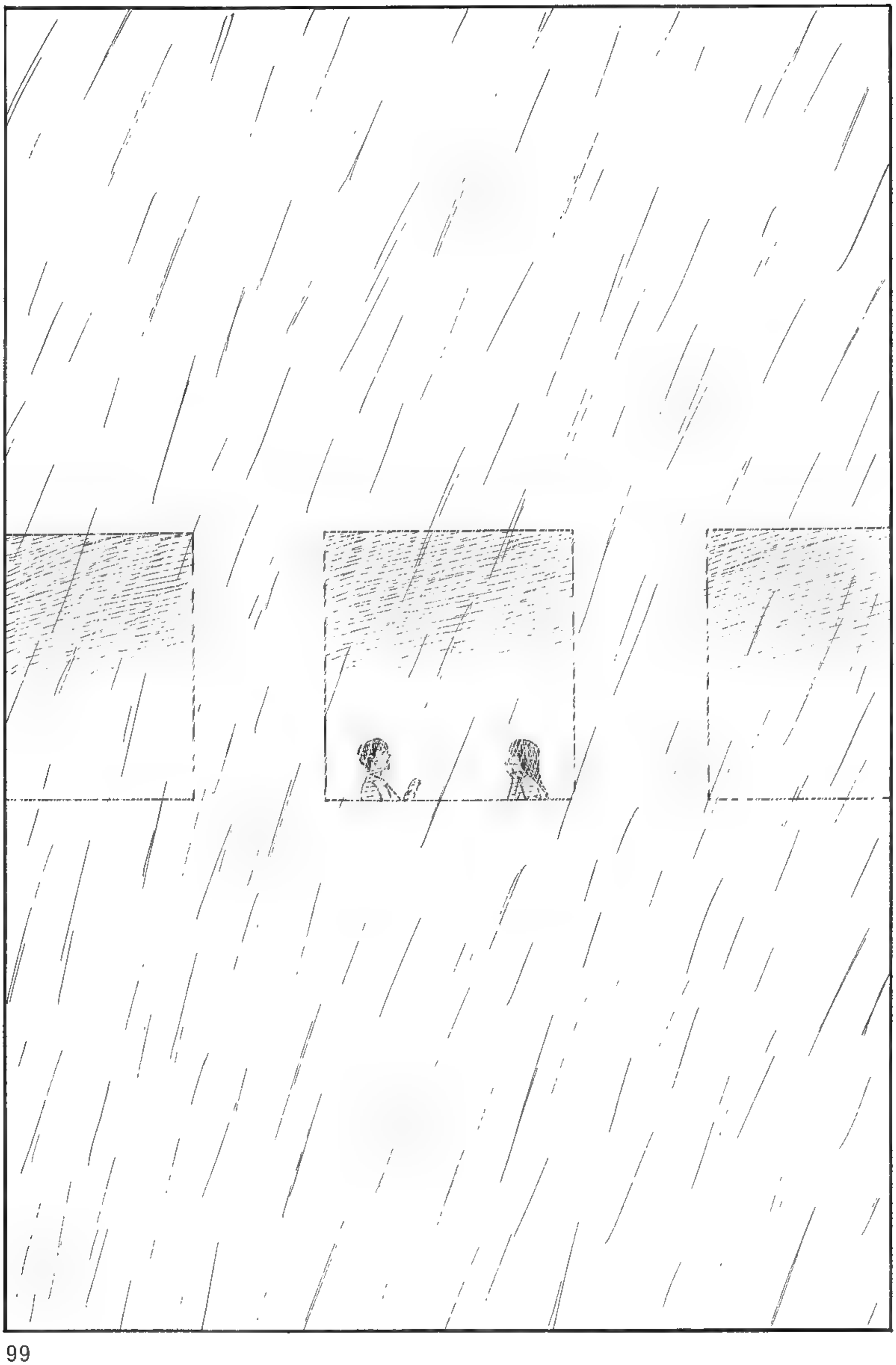
HA HA HA HA

I FINALLY GET TO NOT BE YOUR SON!

THAT'S GREAT!

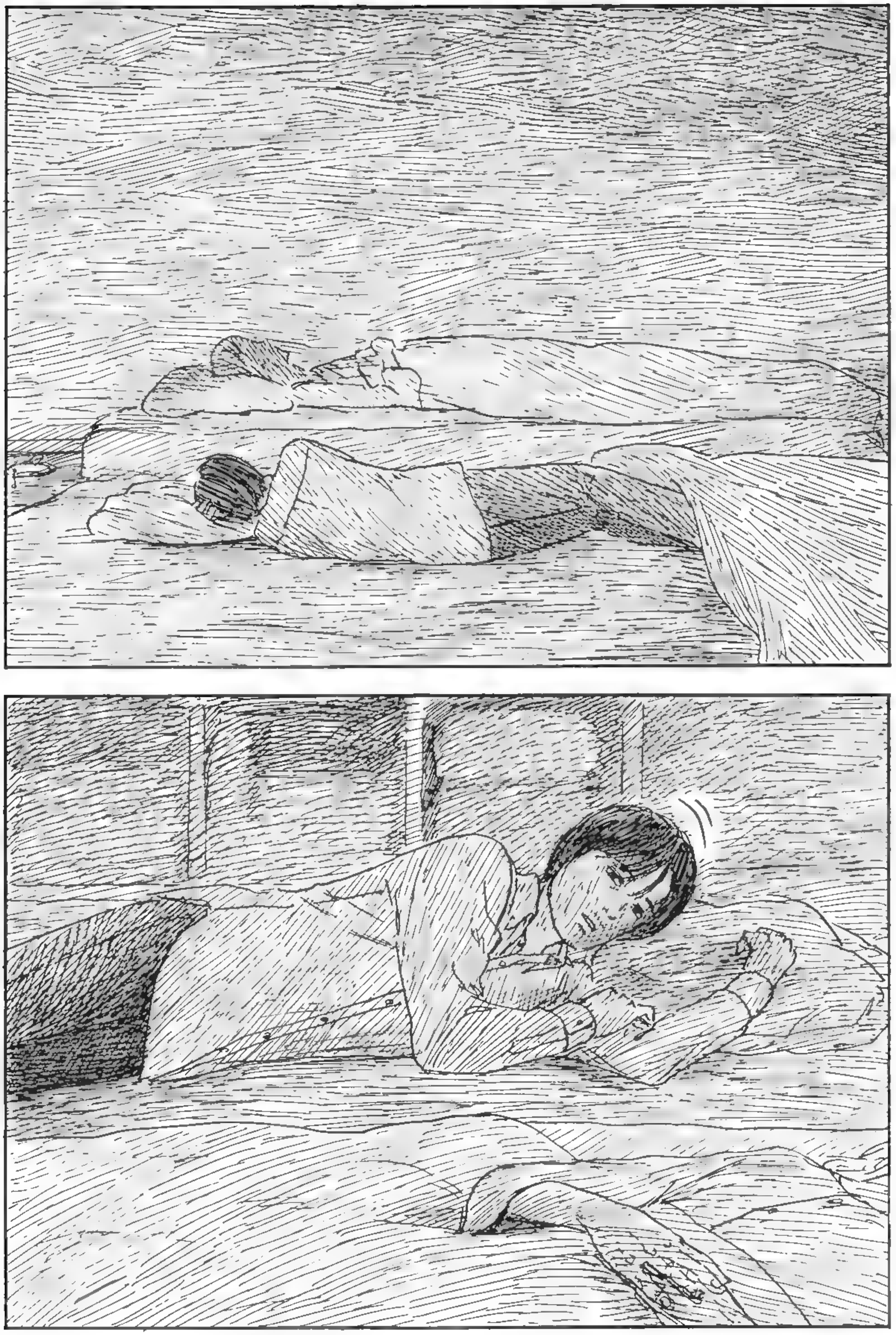


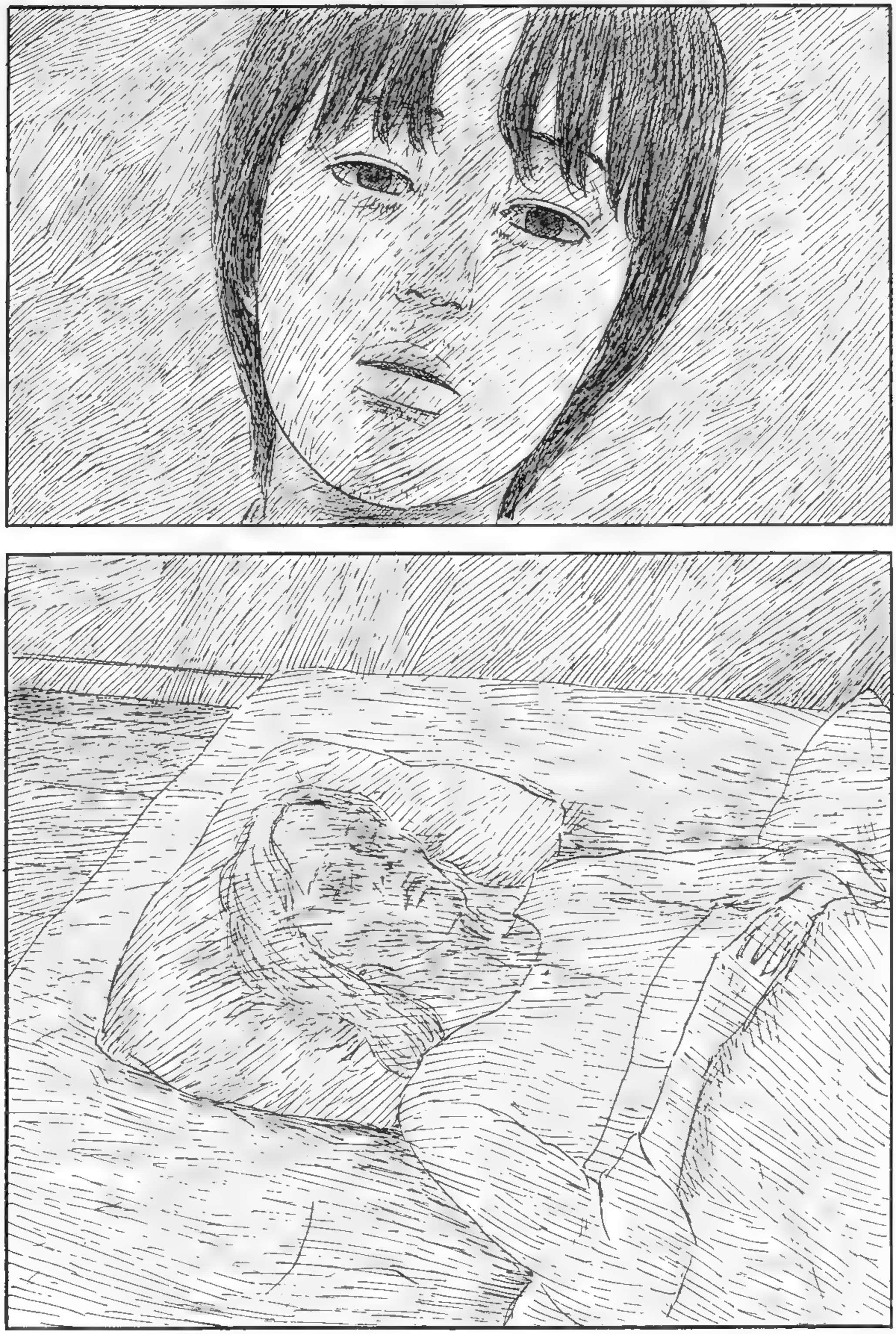


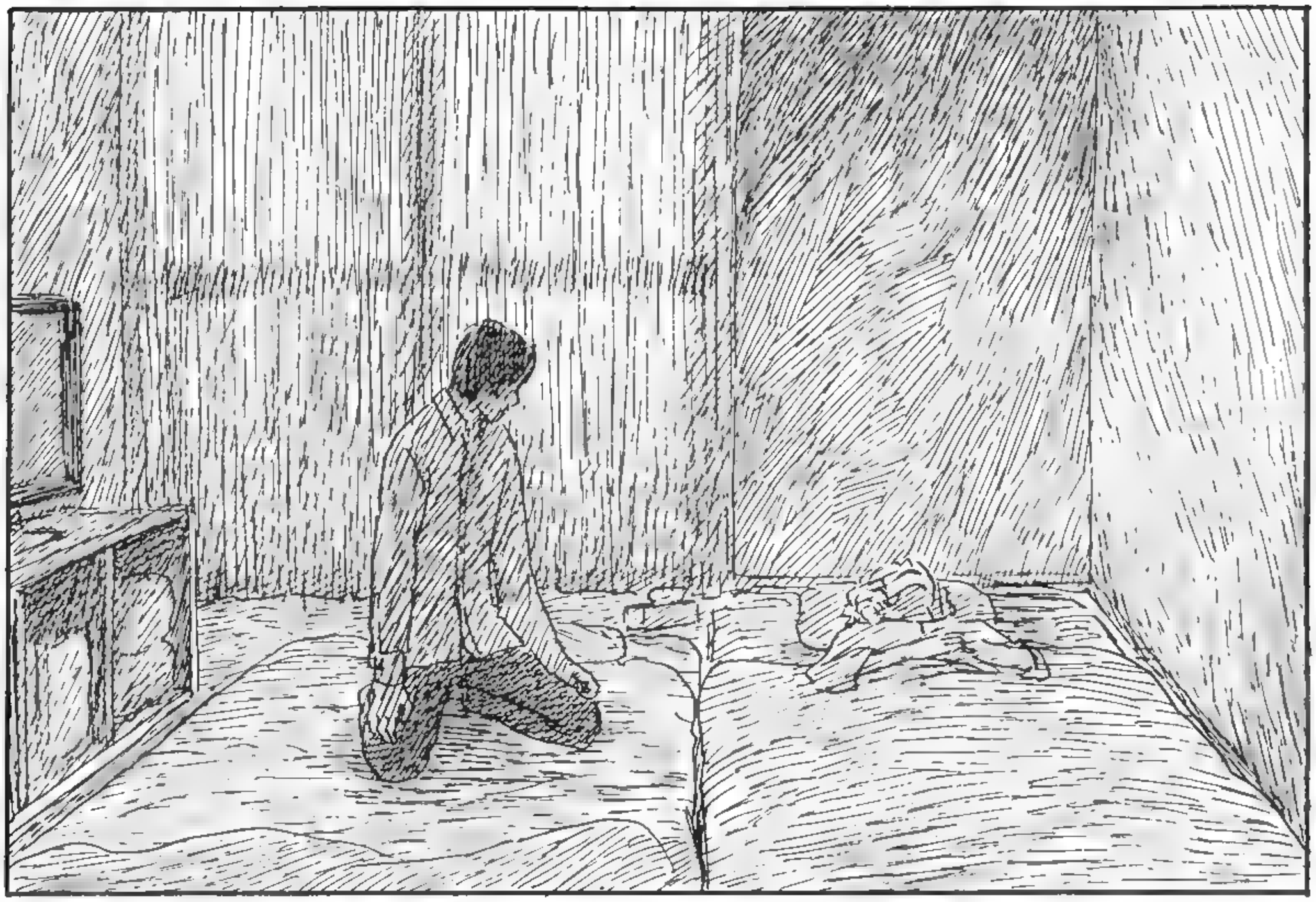


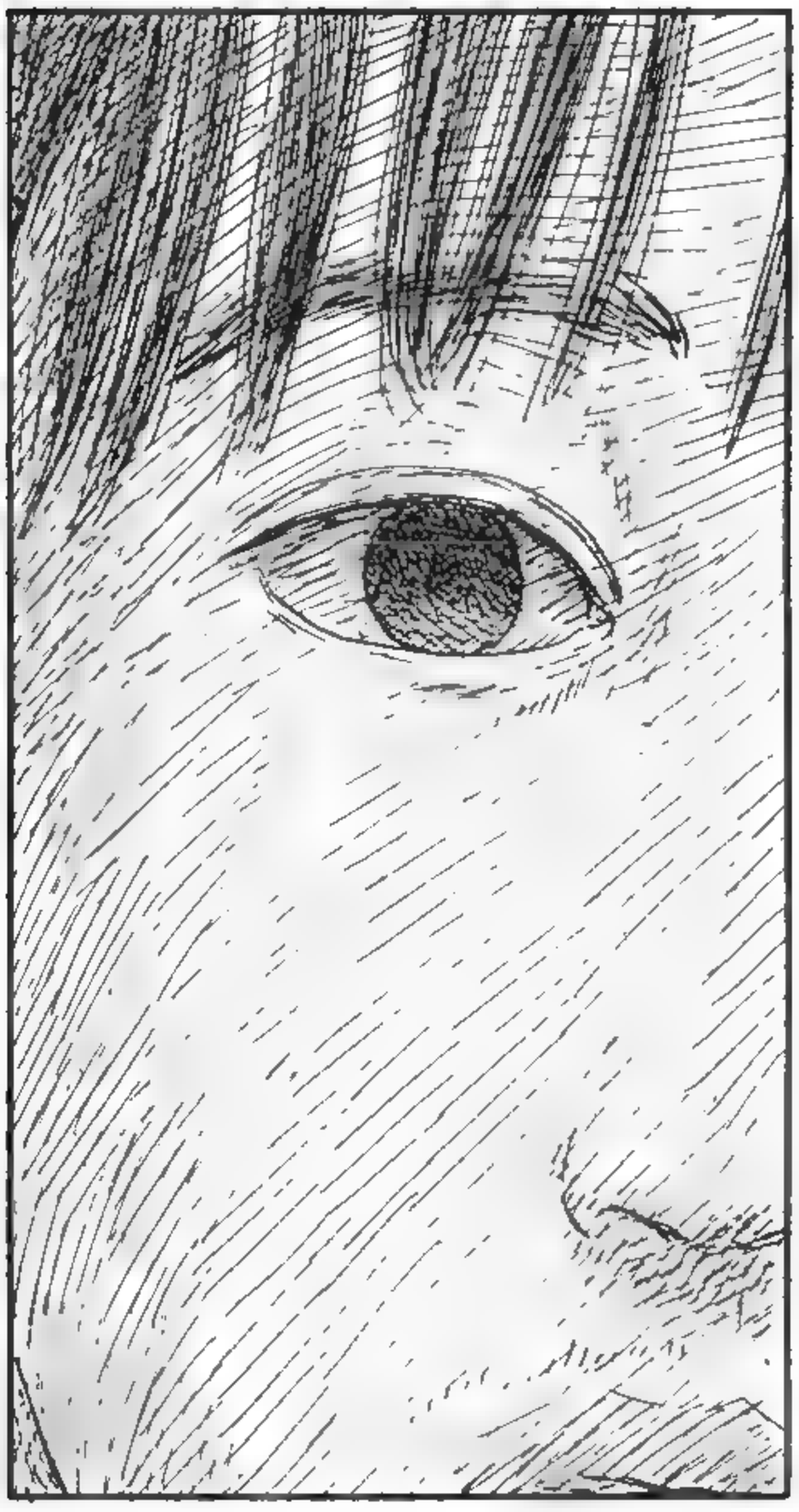
WELL, BYE, SEIICHI...

CHAPTER 150 Peeling Off

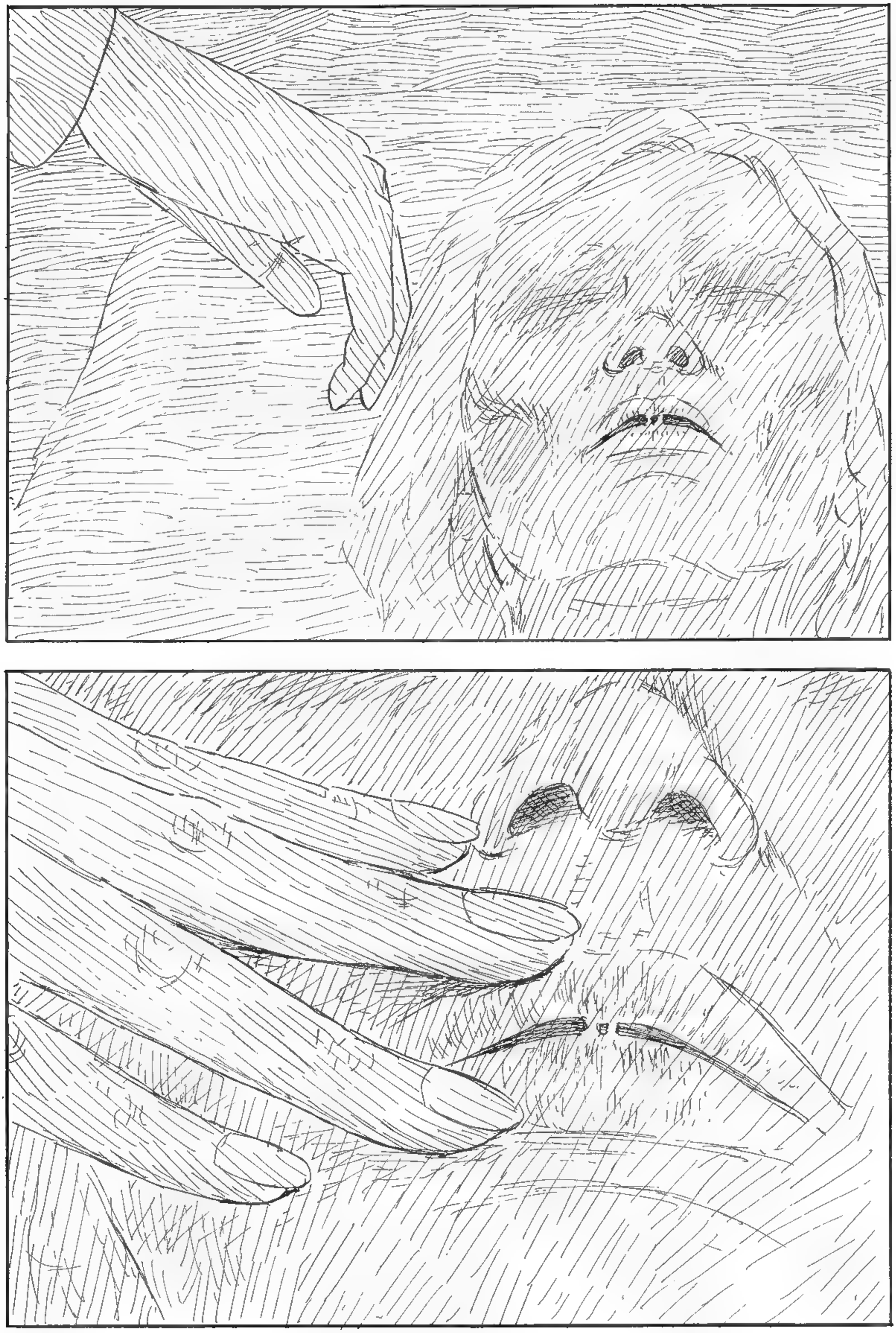


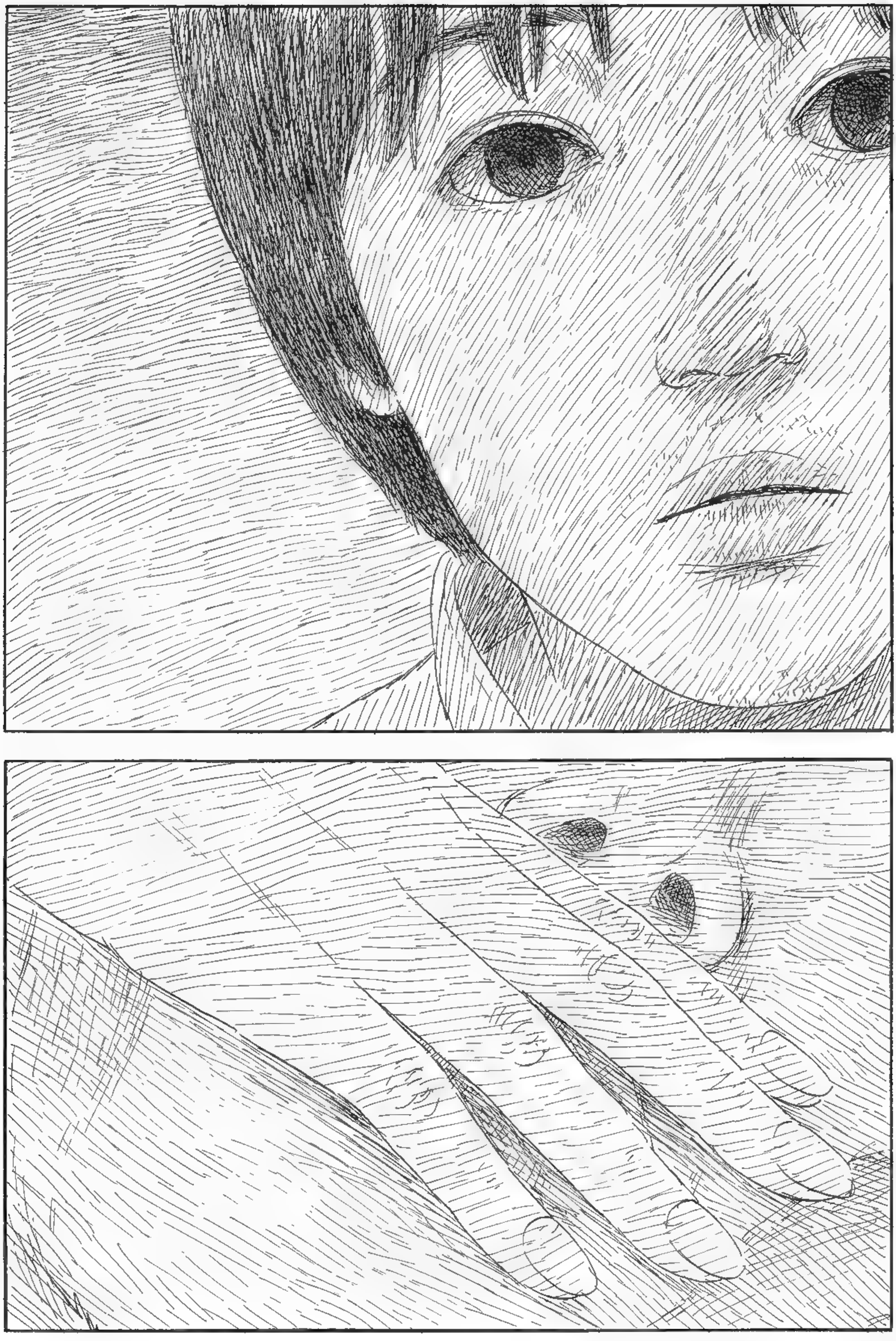




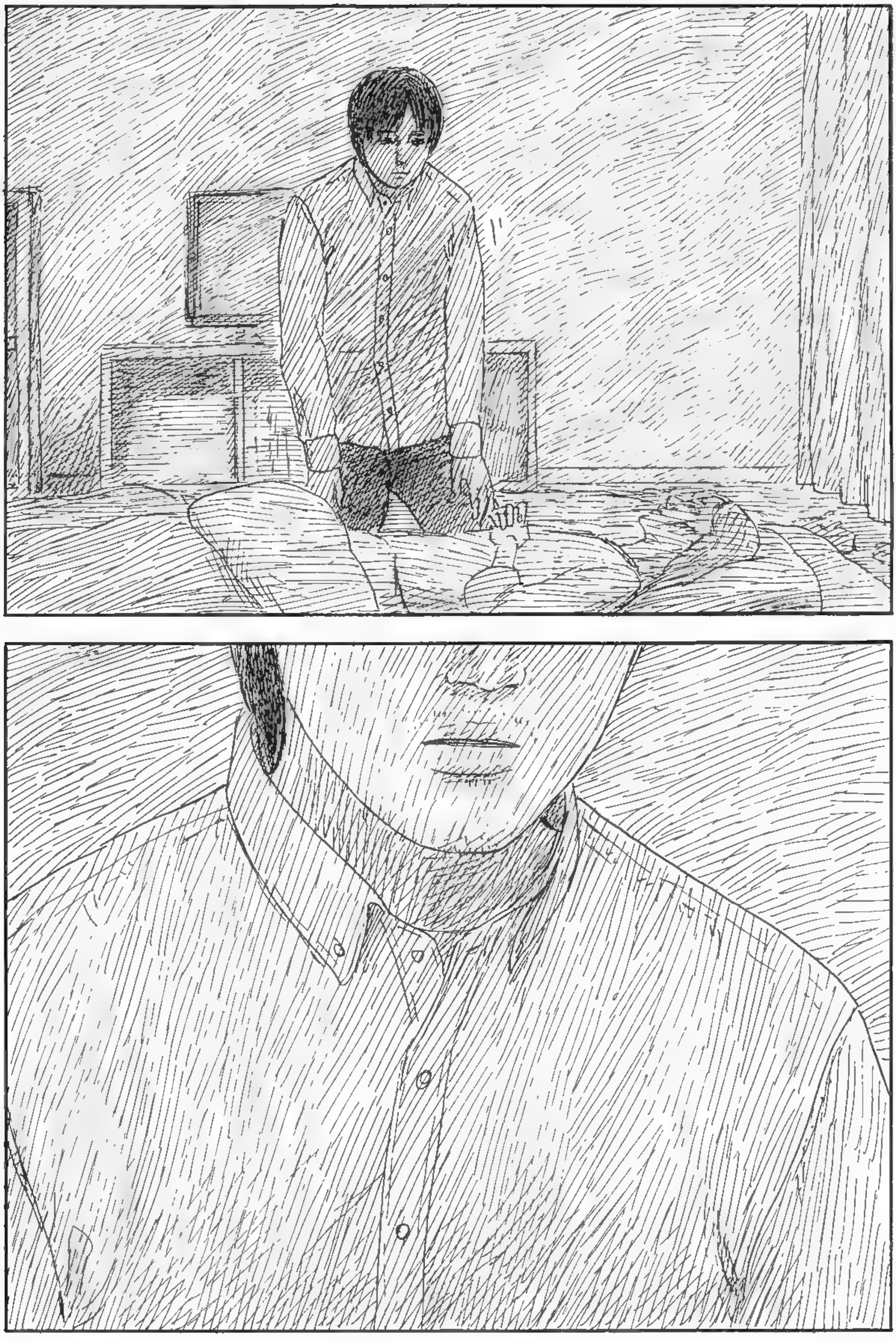


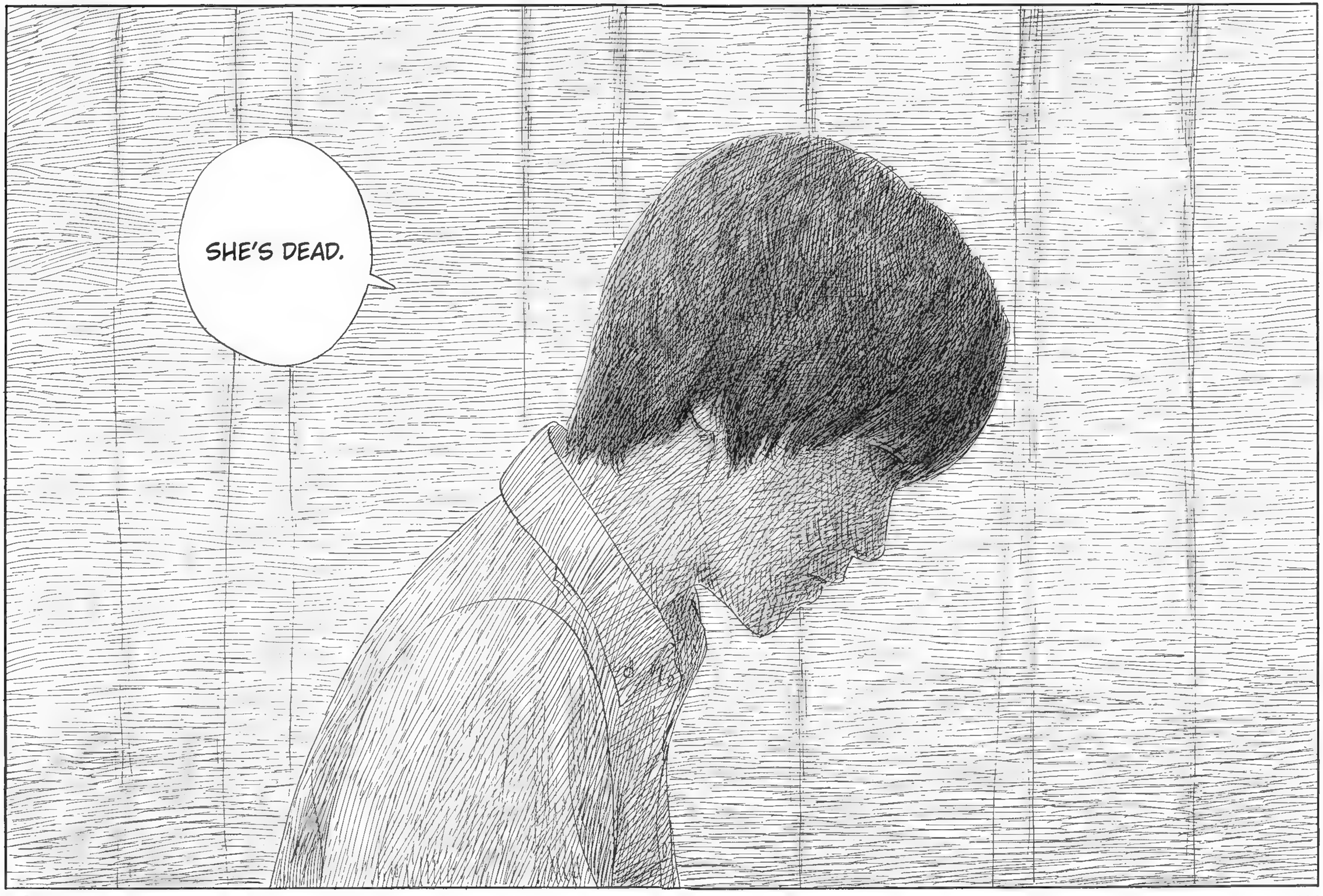
MOM?

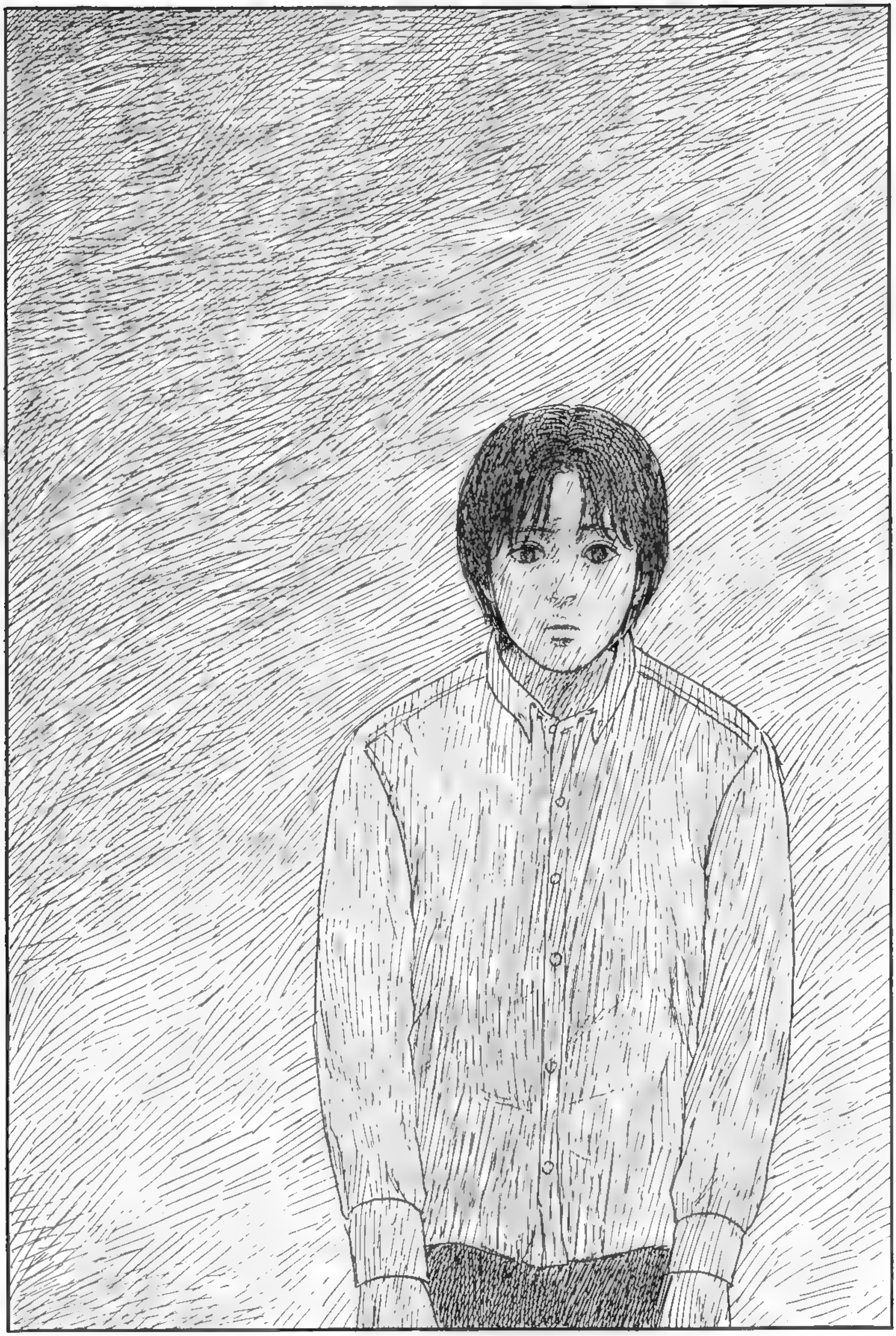


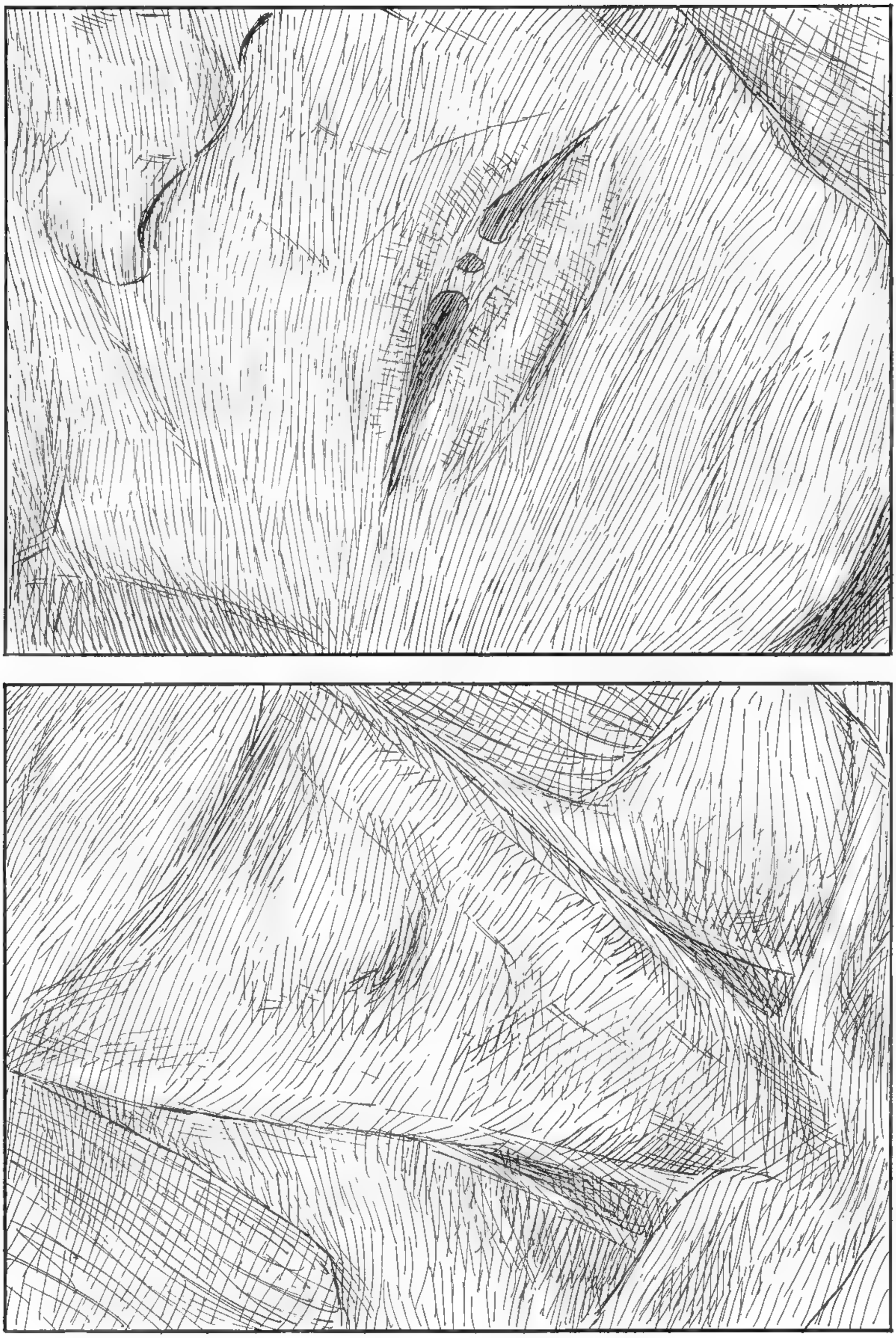


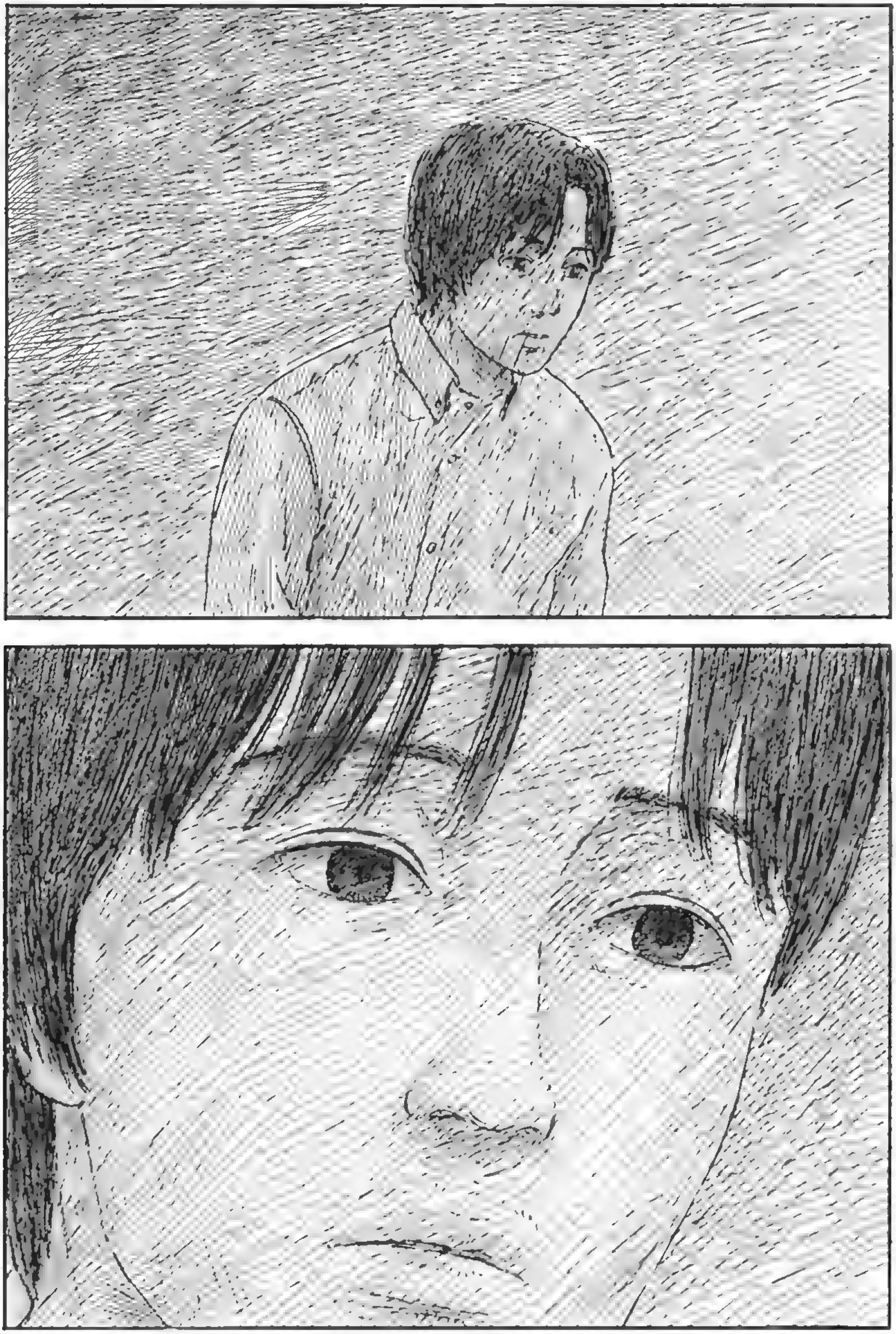
FWUP

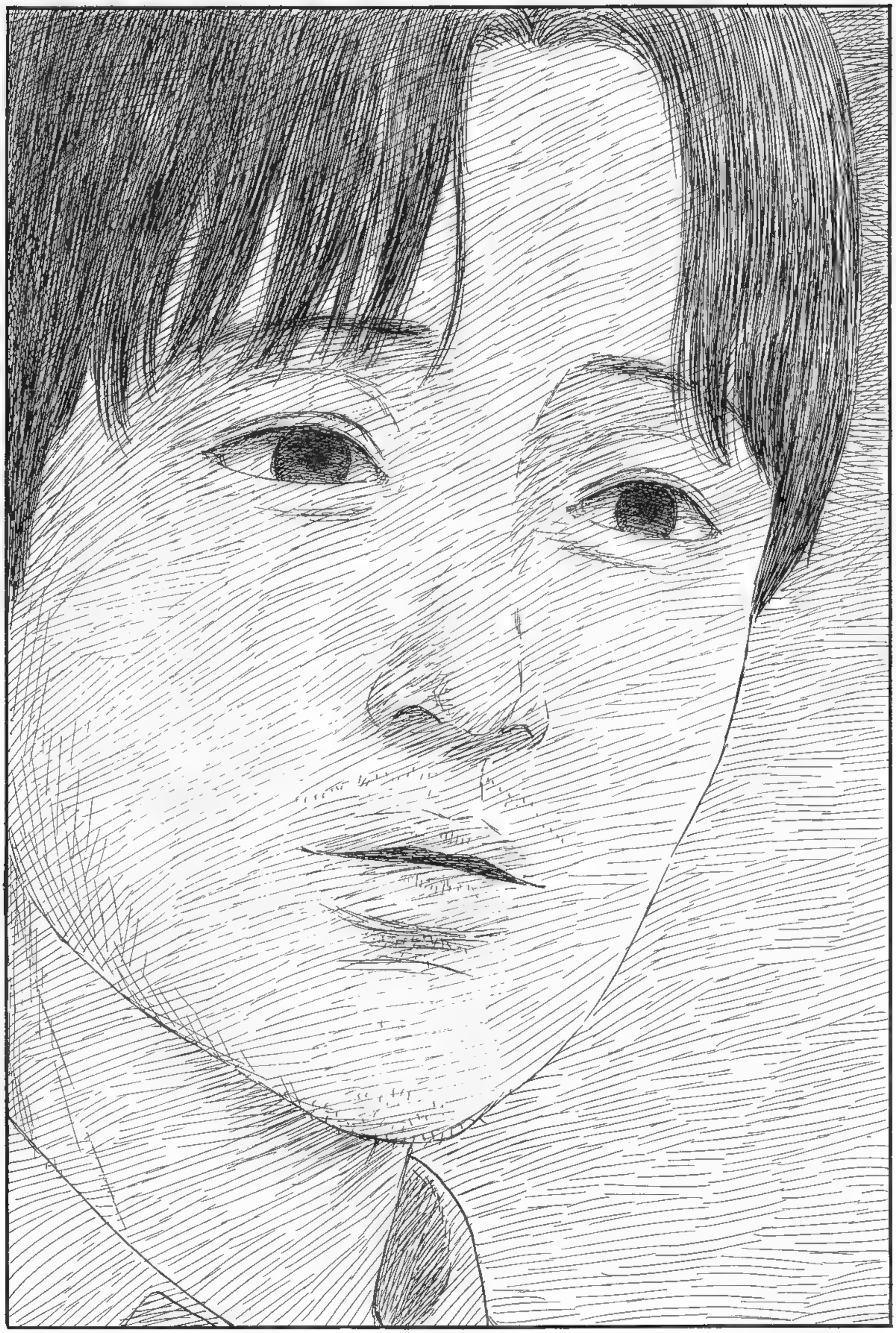



SHE'S DEAD.





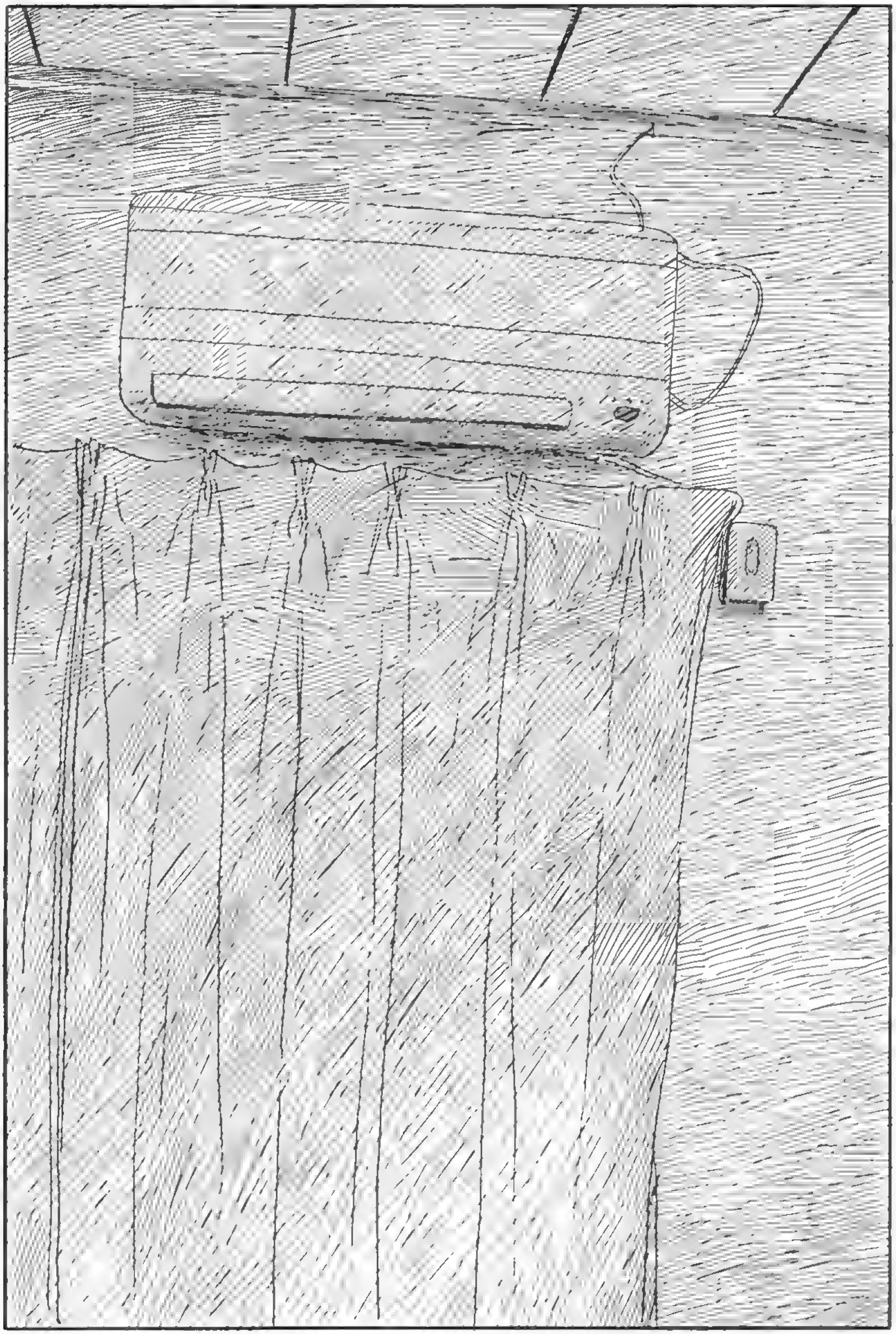


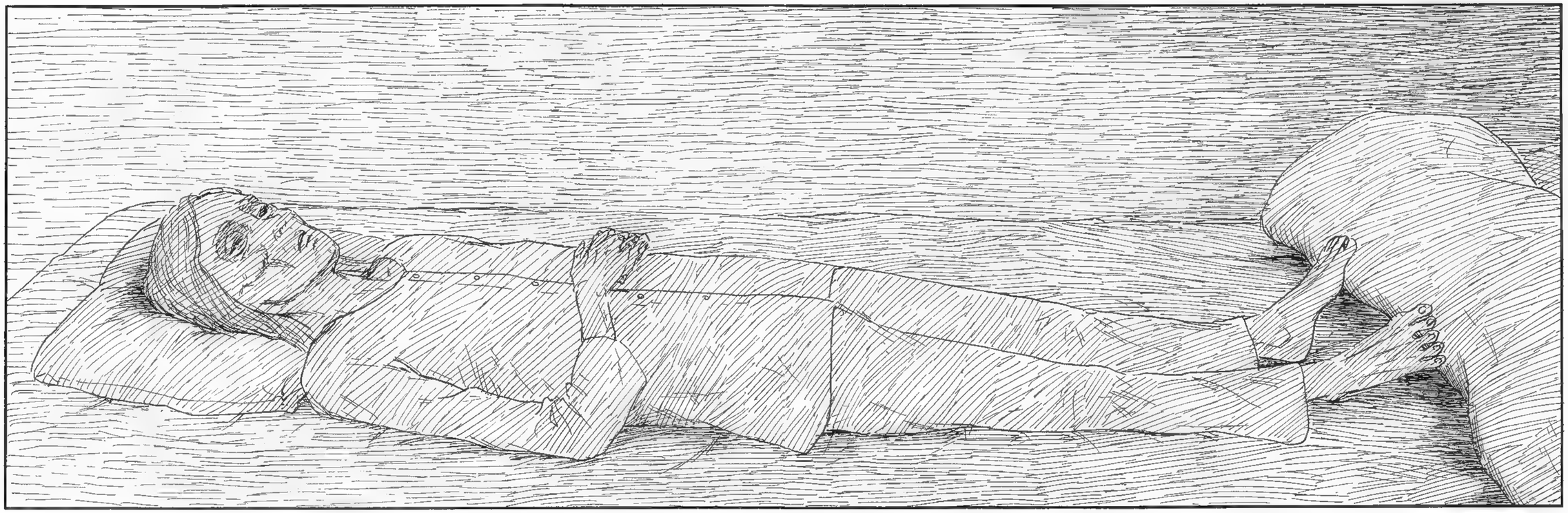


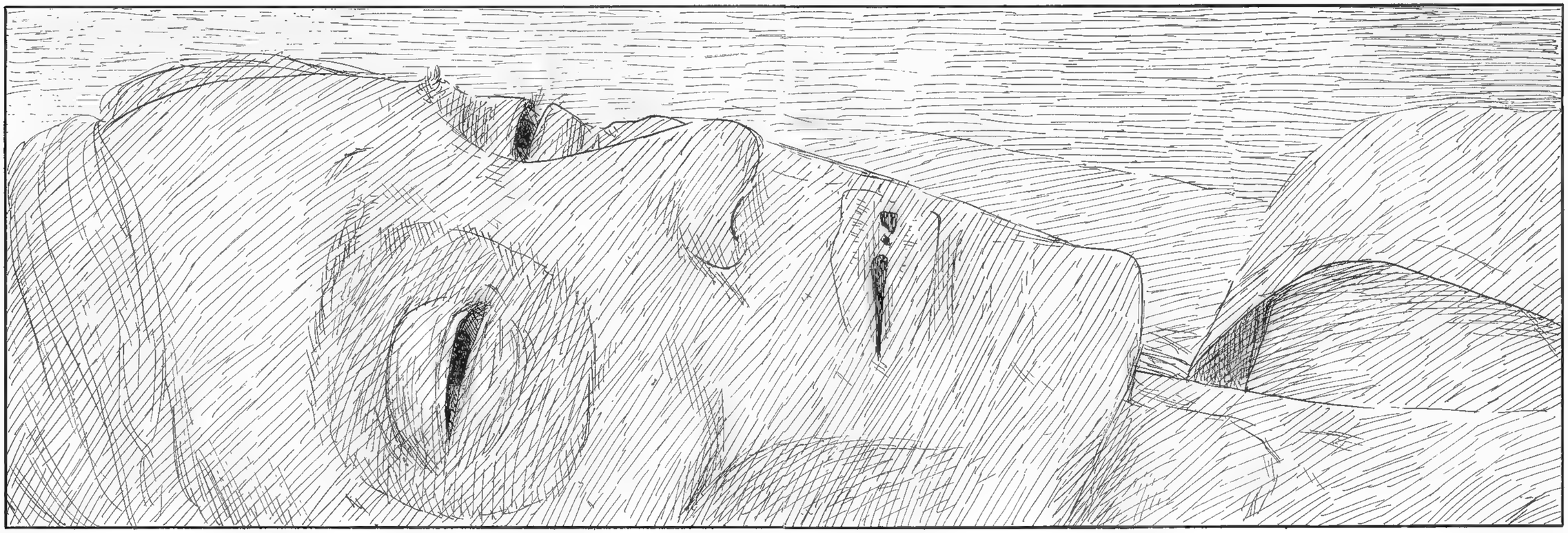
HEH

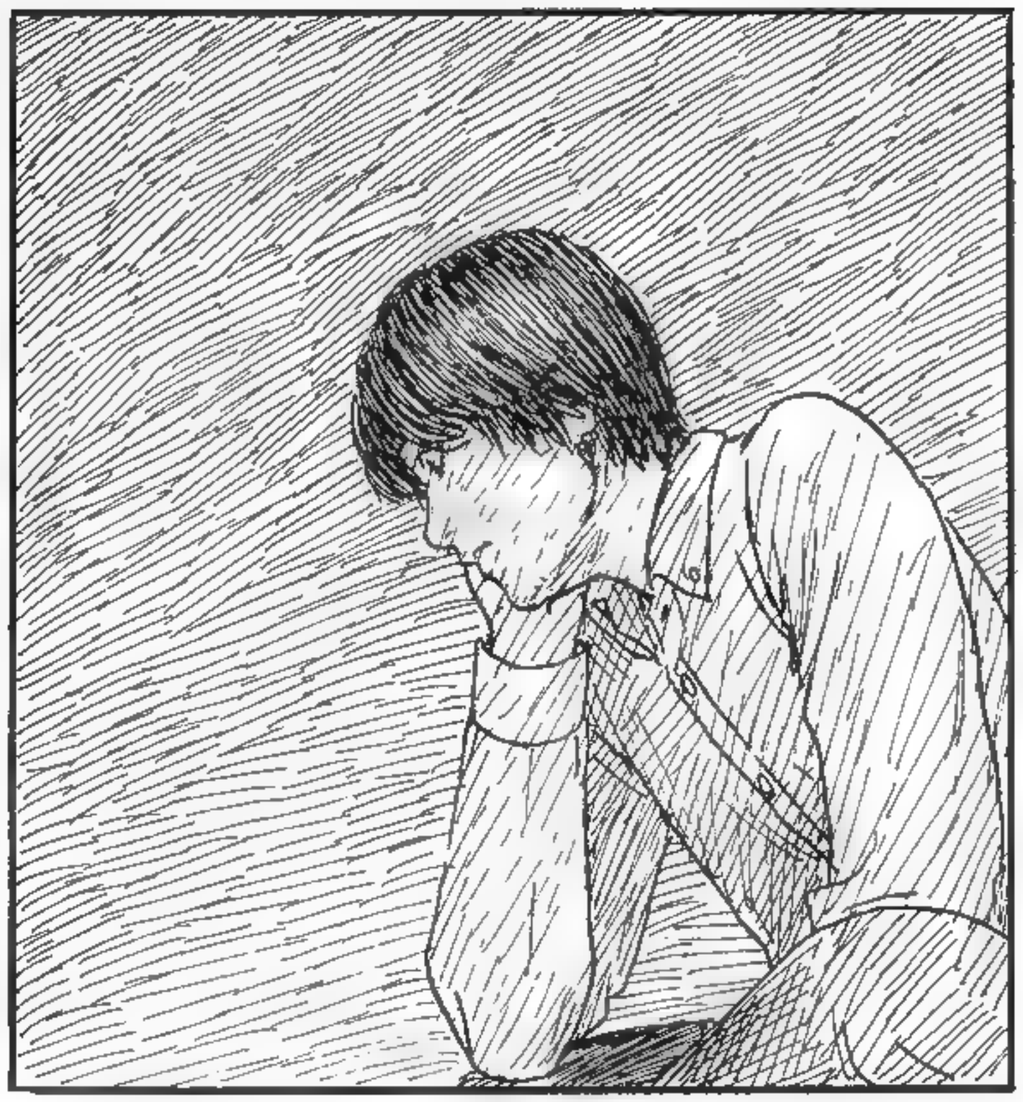
HA
HA
HA

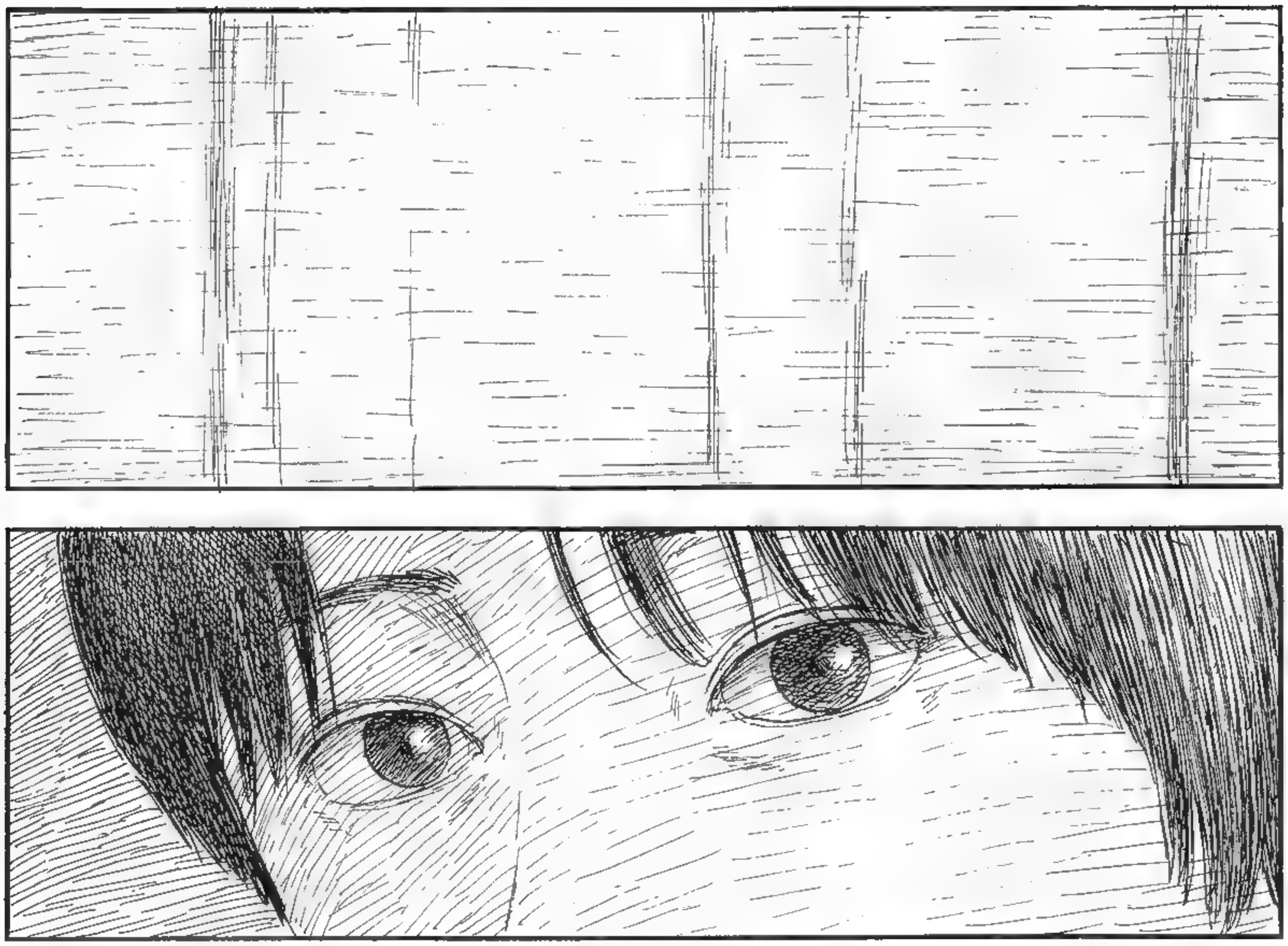
Blood on the Tracks

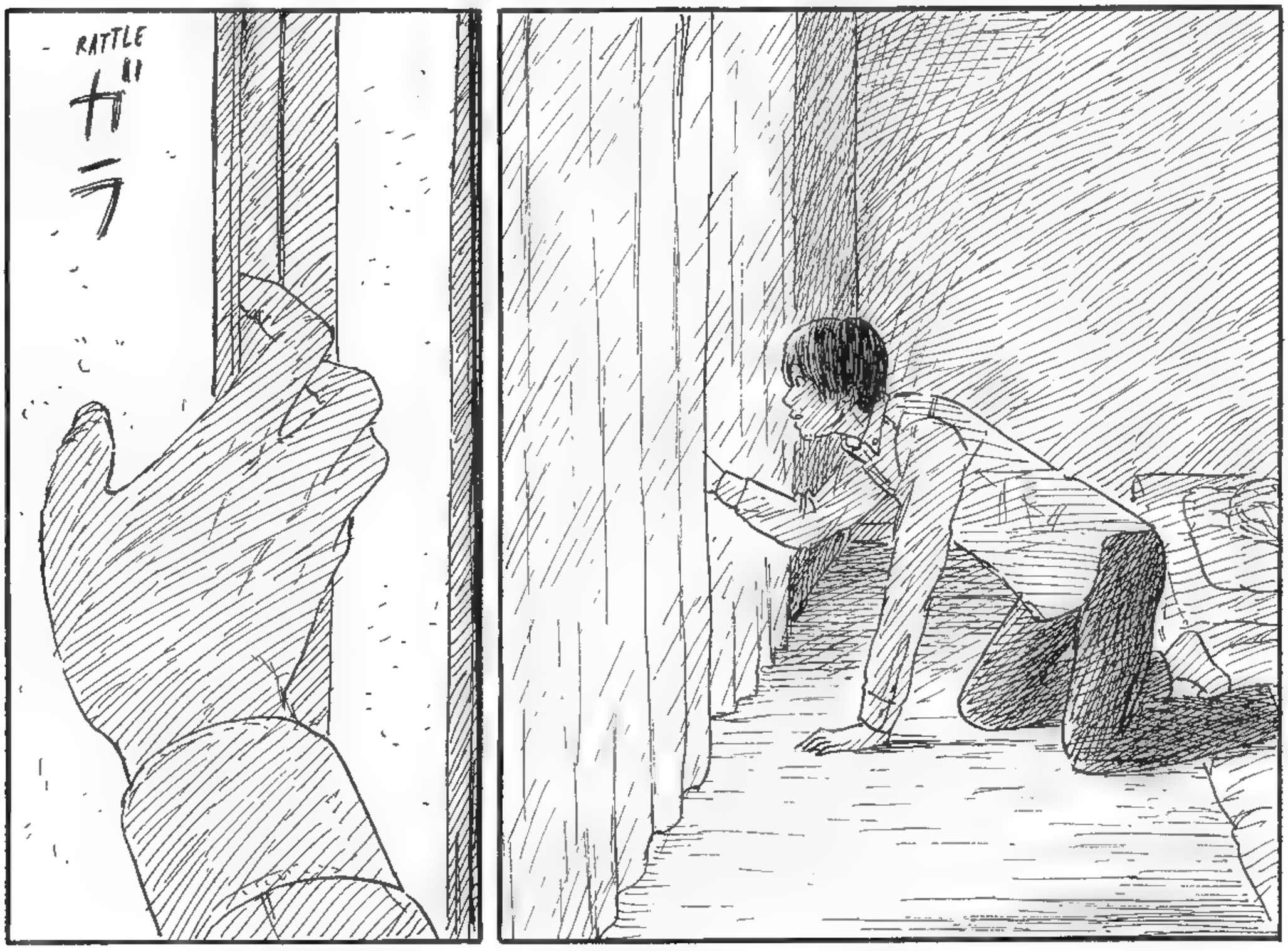


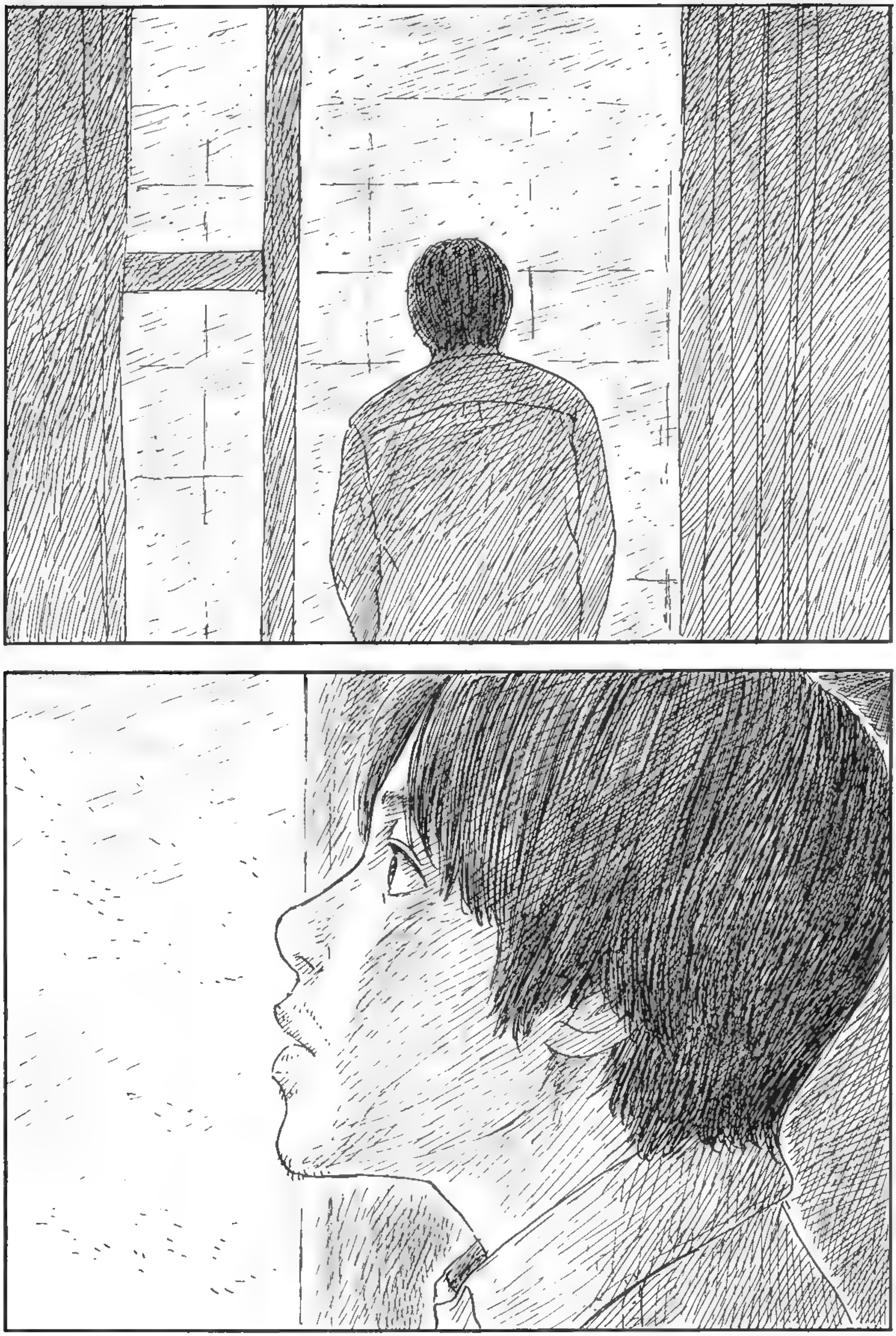


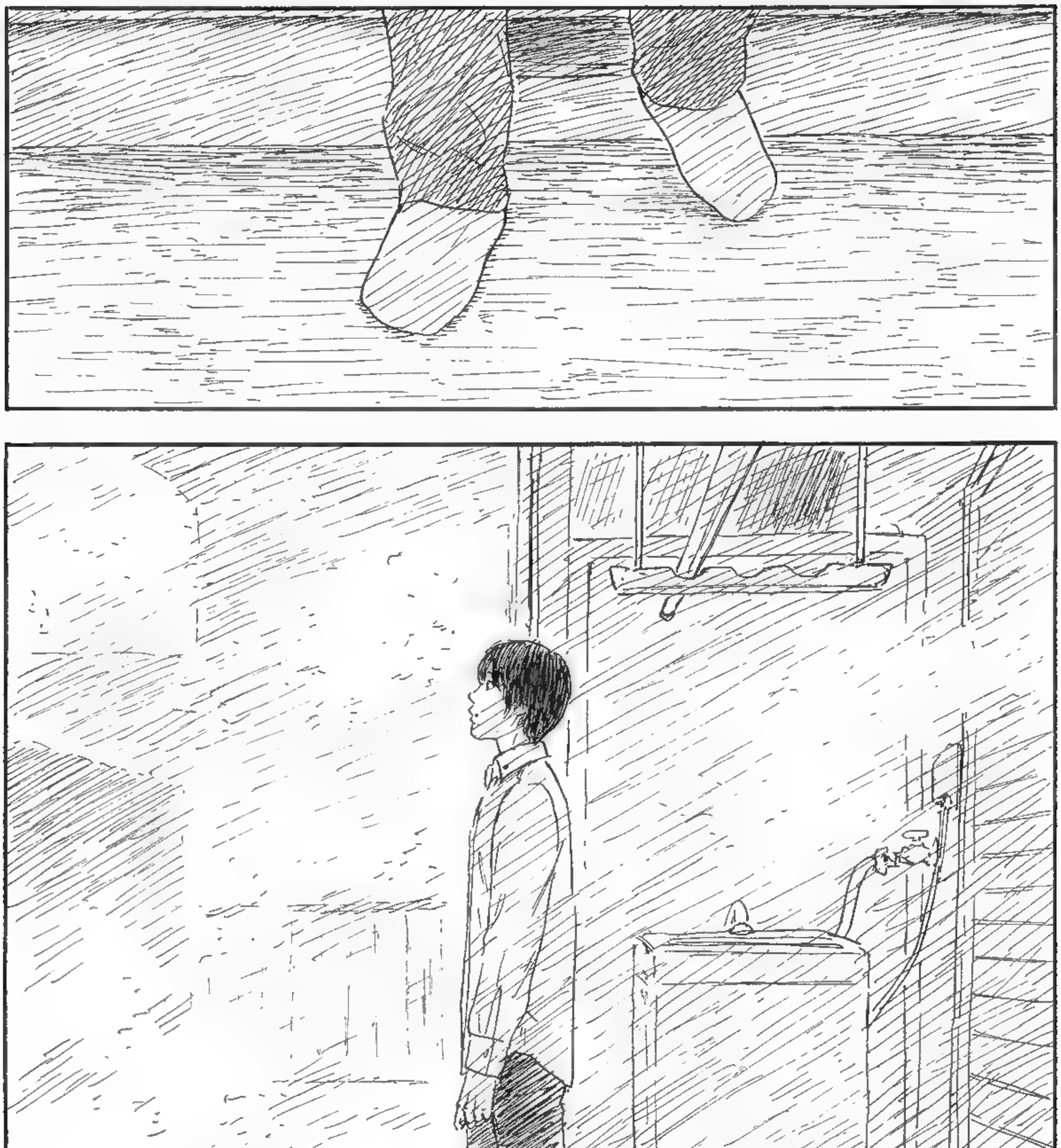


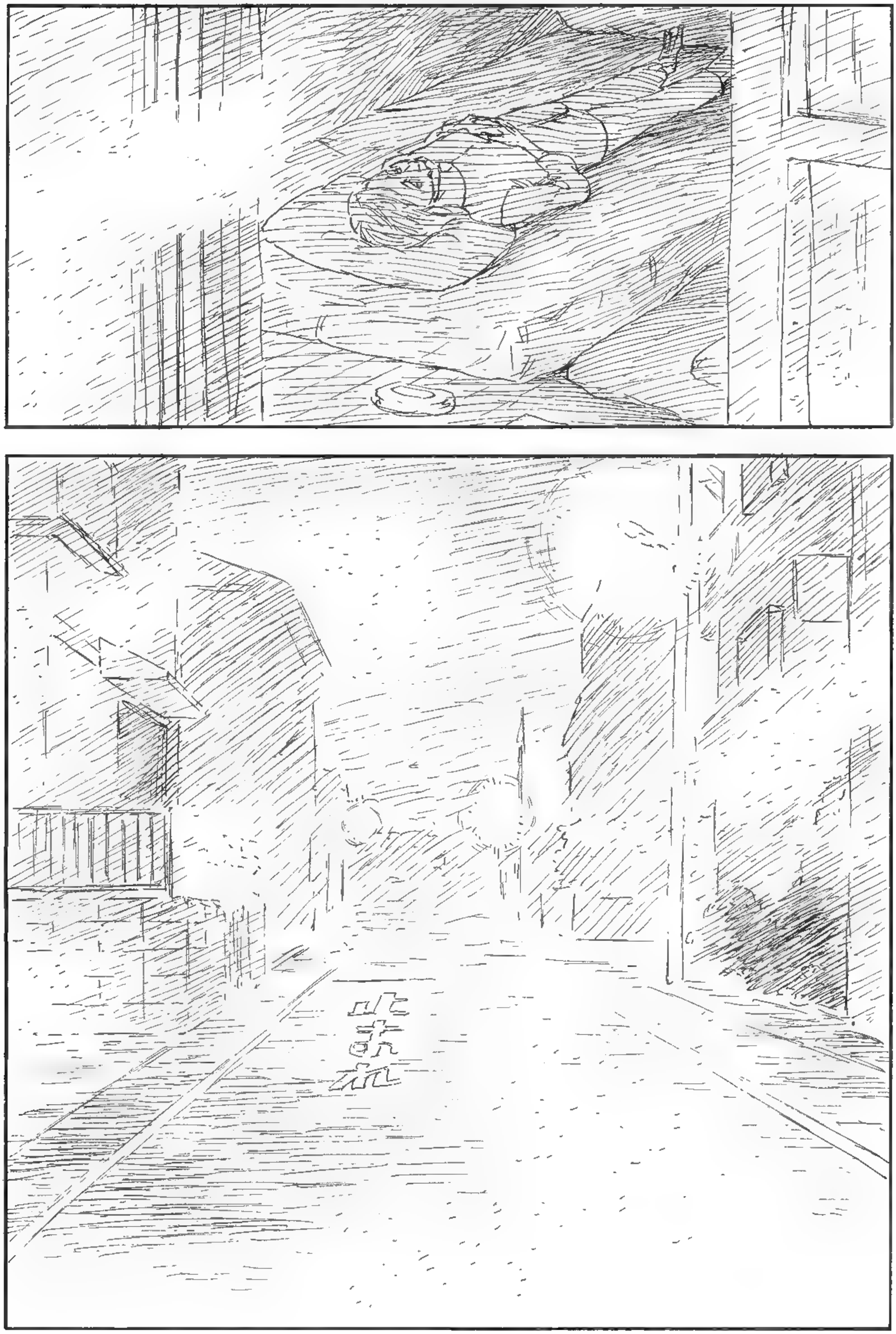


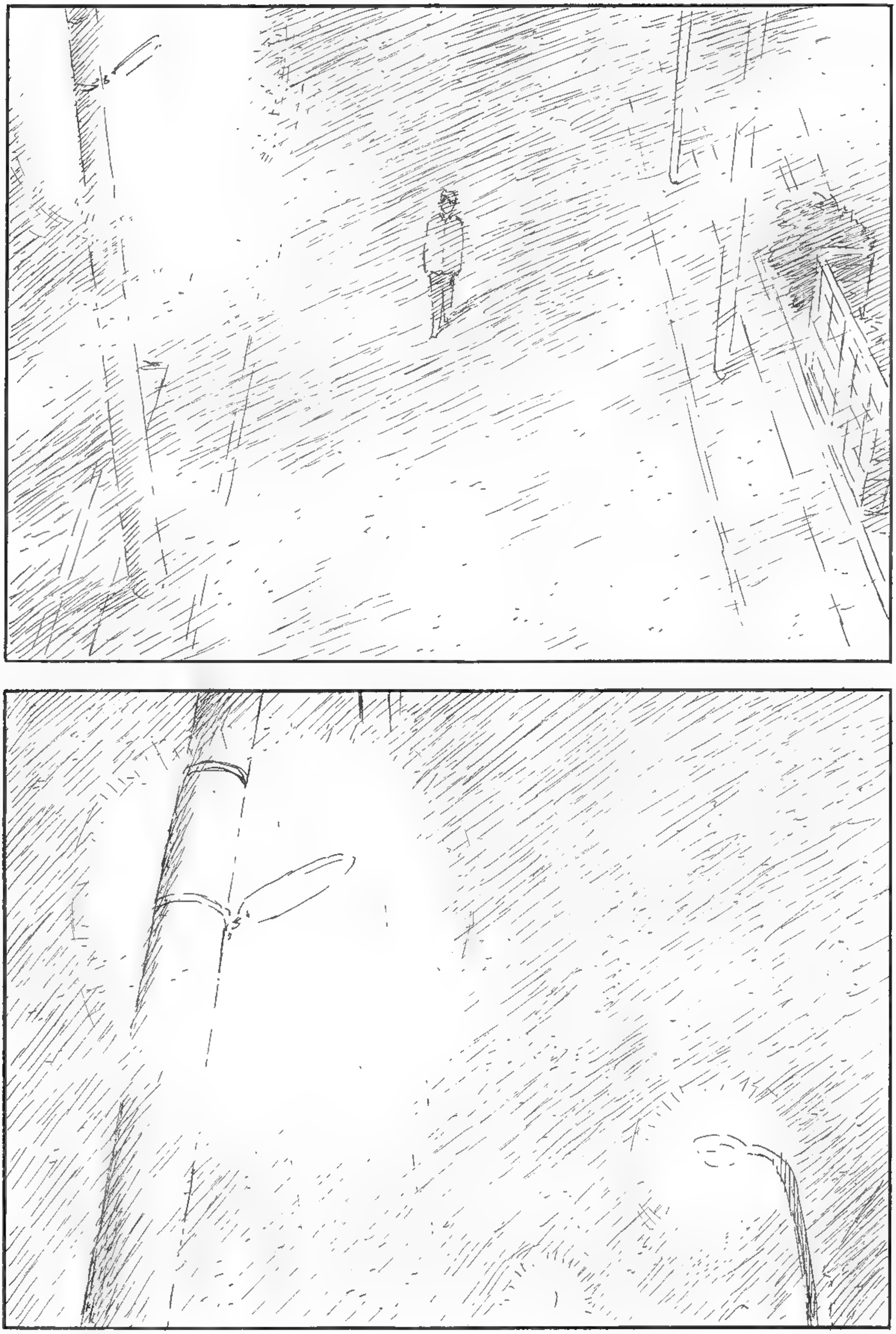


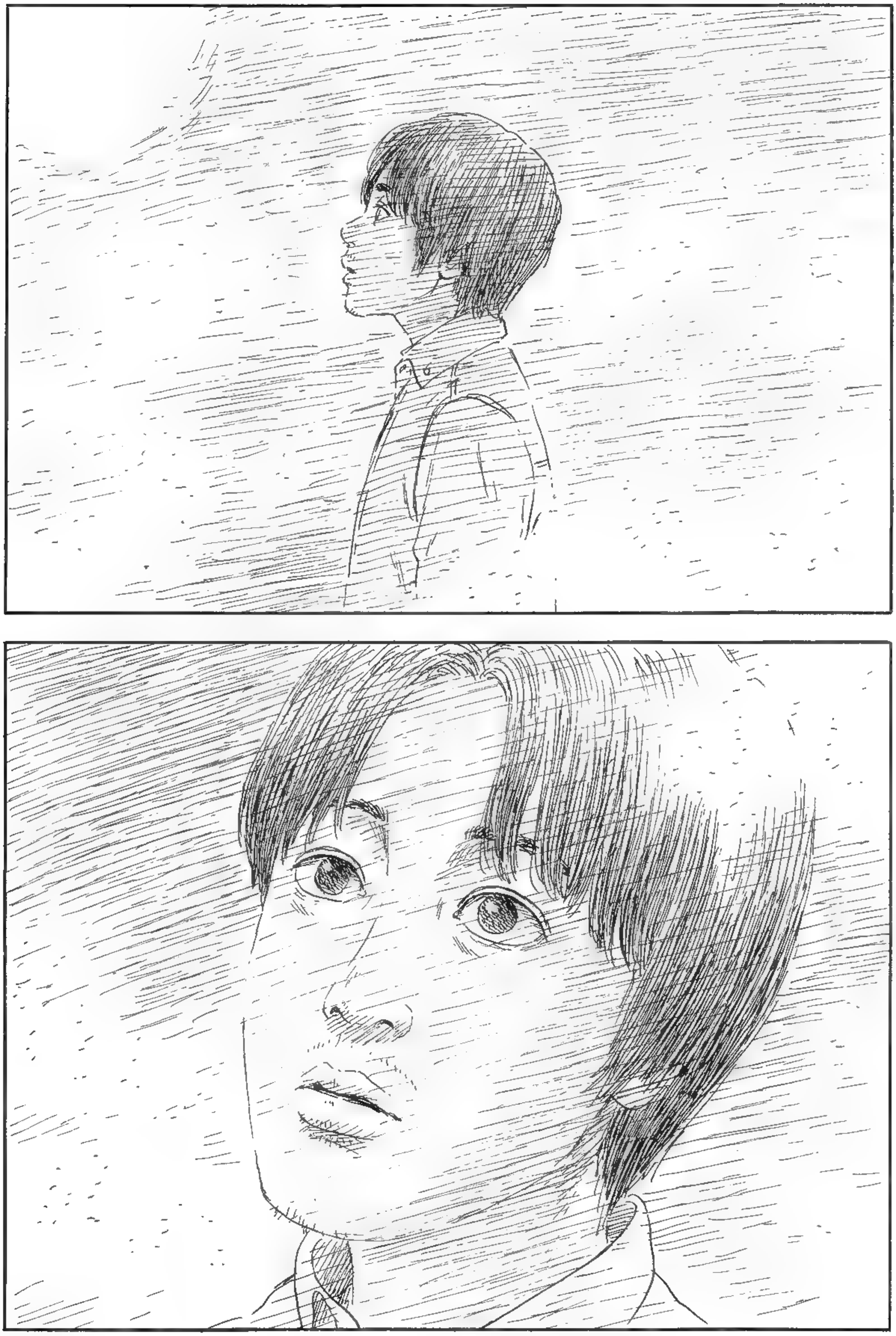

RATTLE

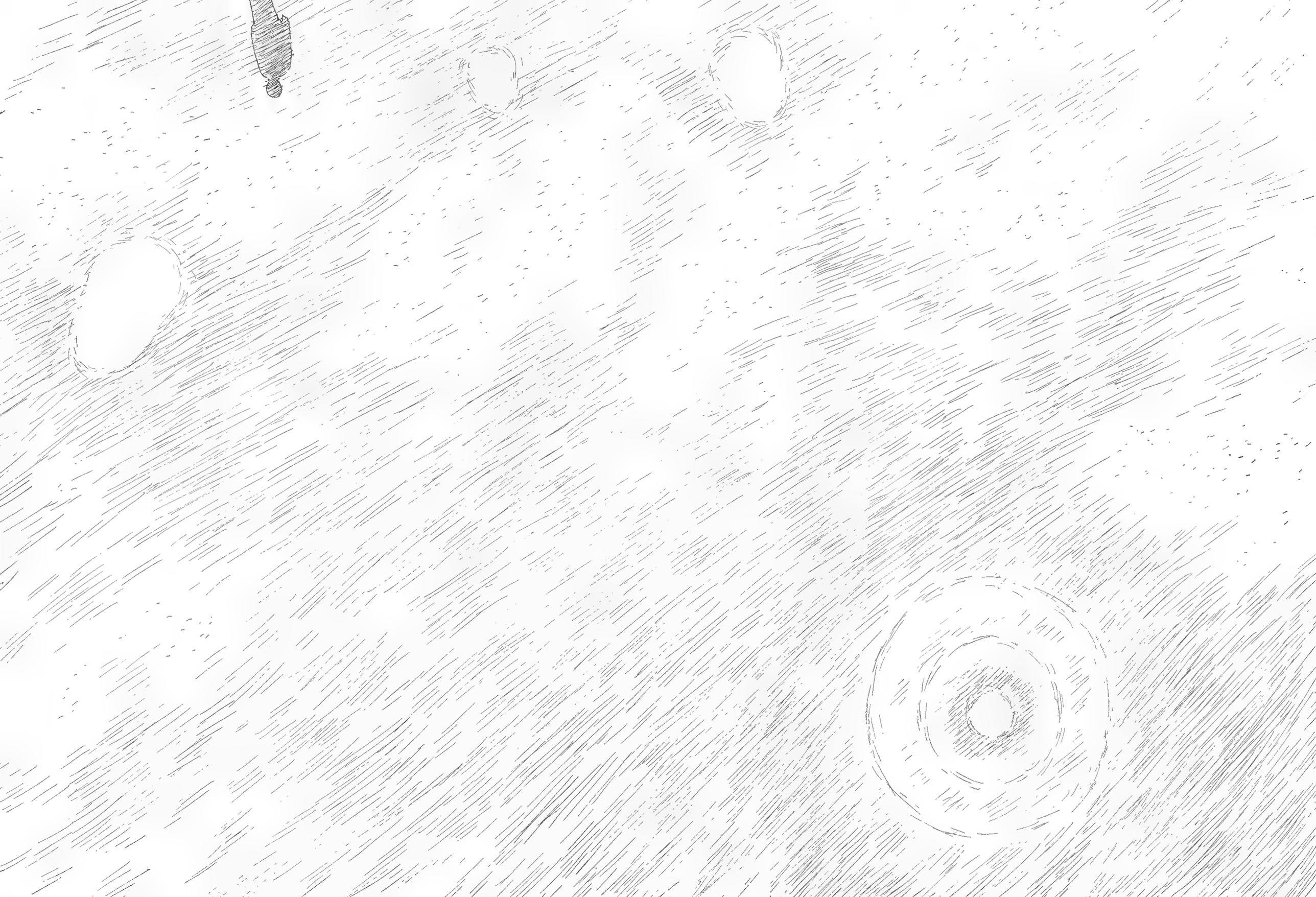


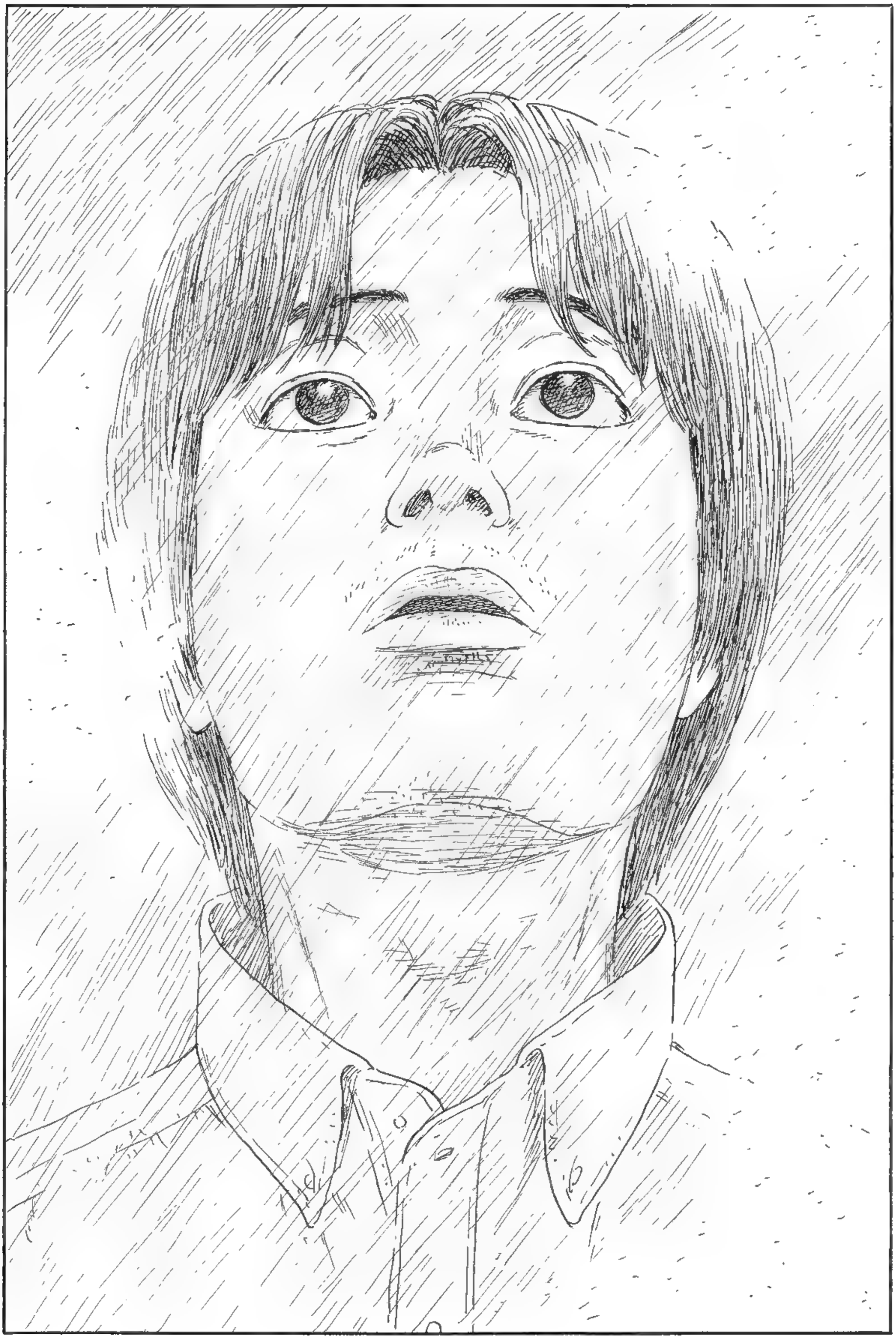




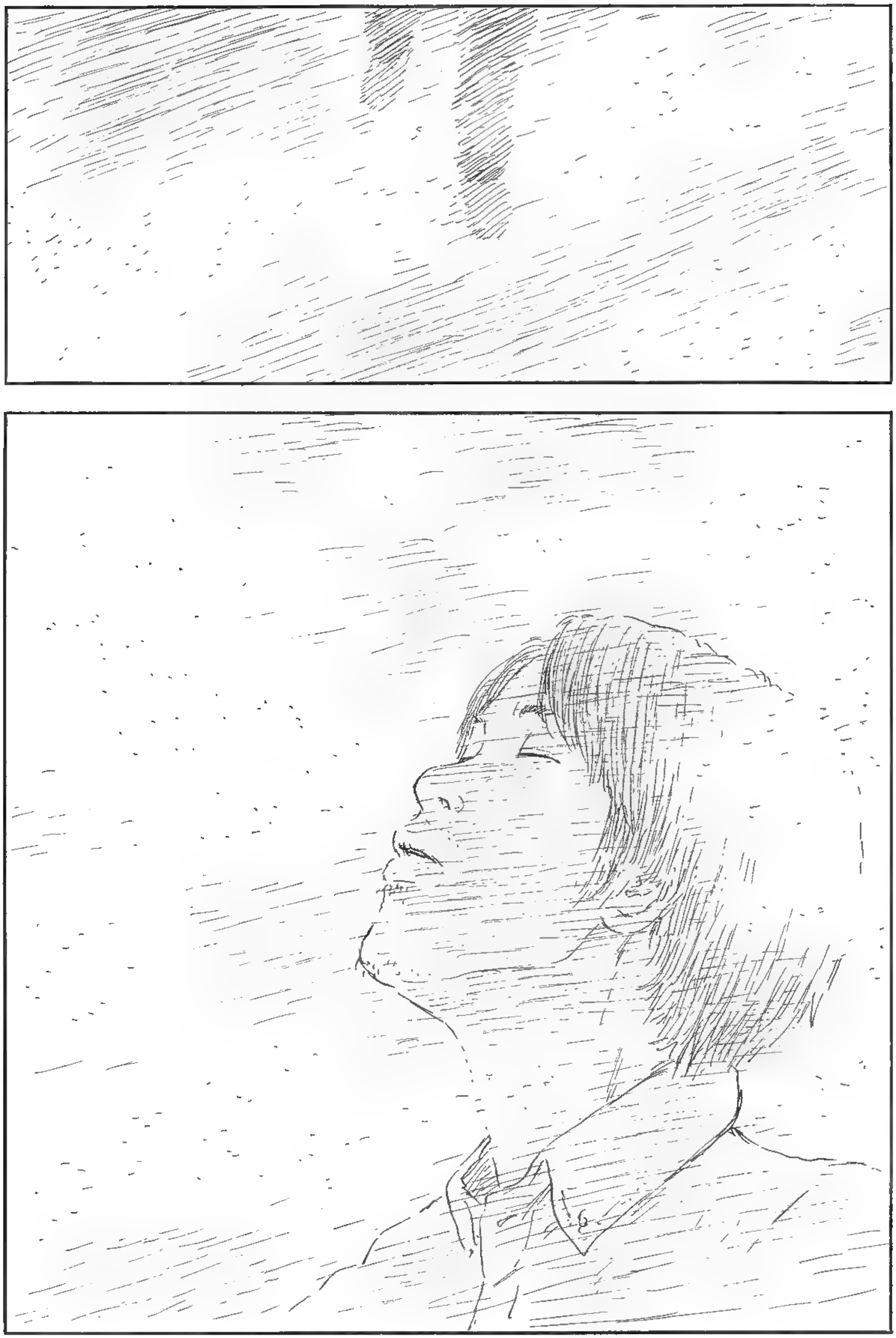


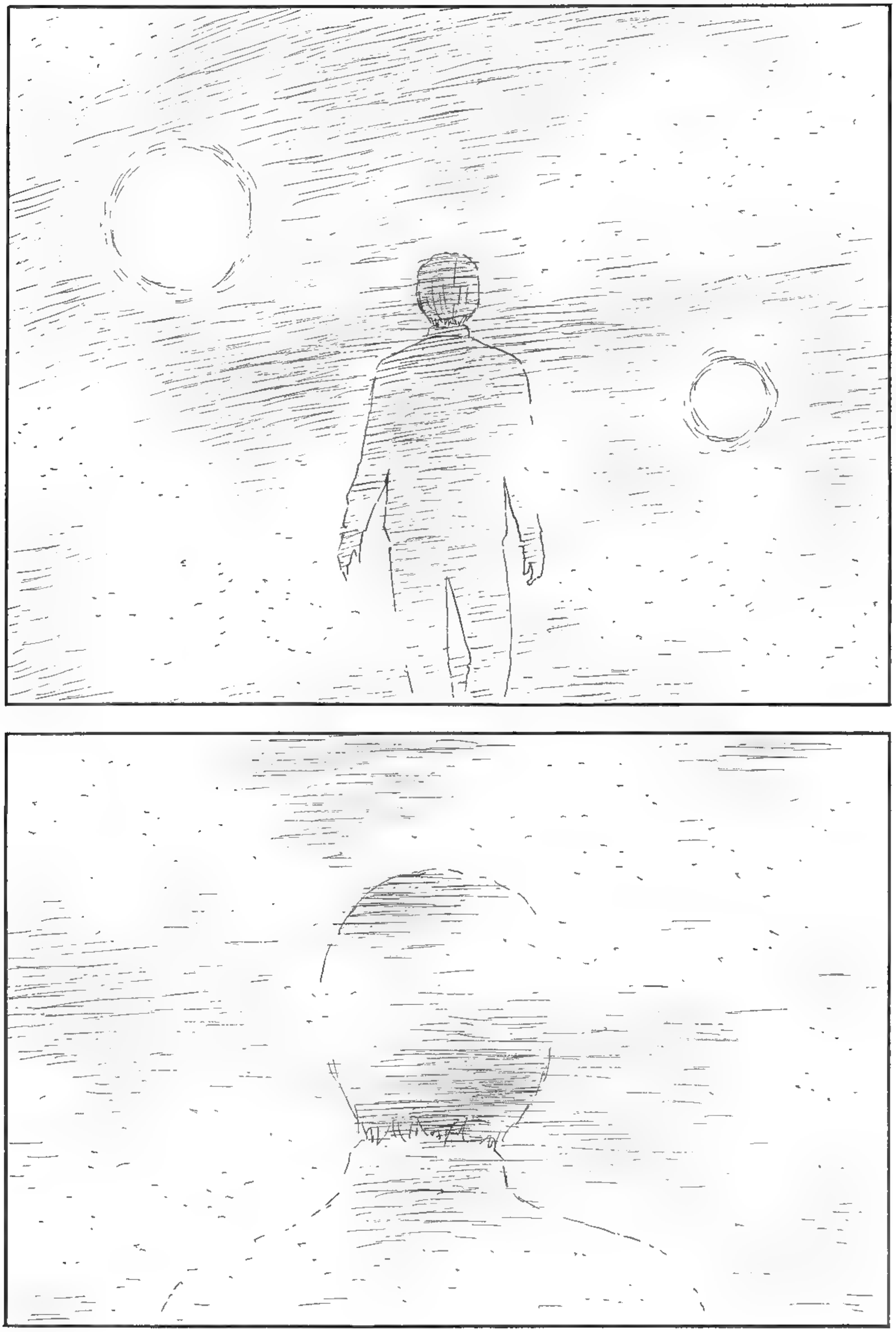


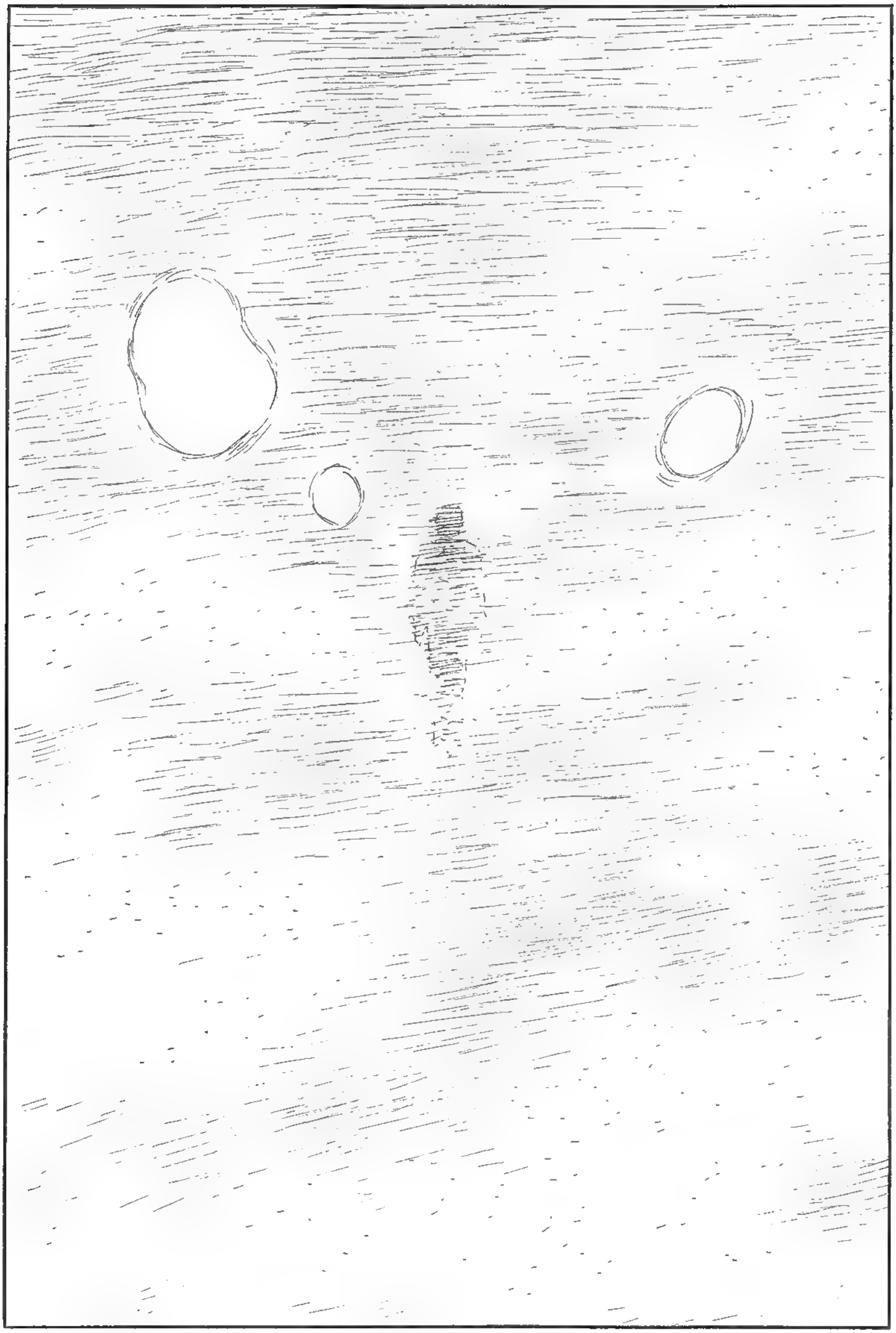


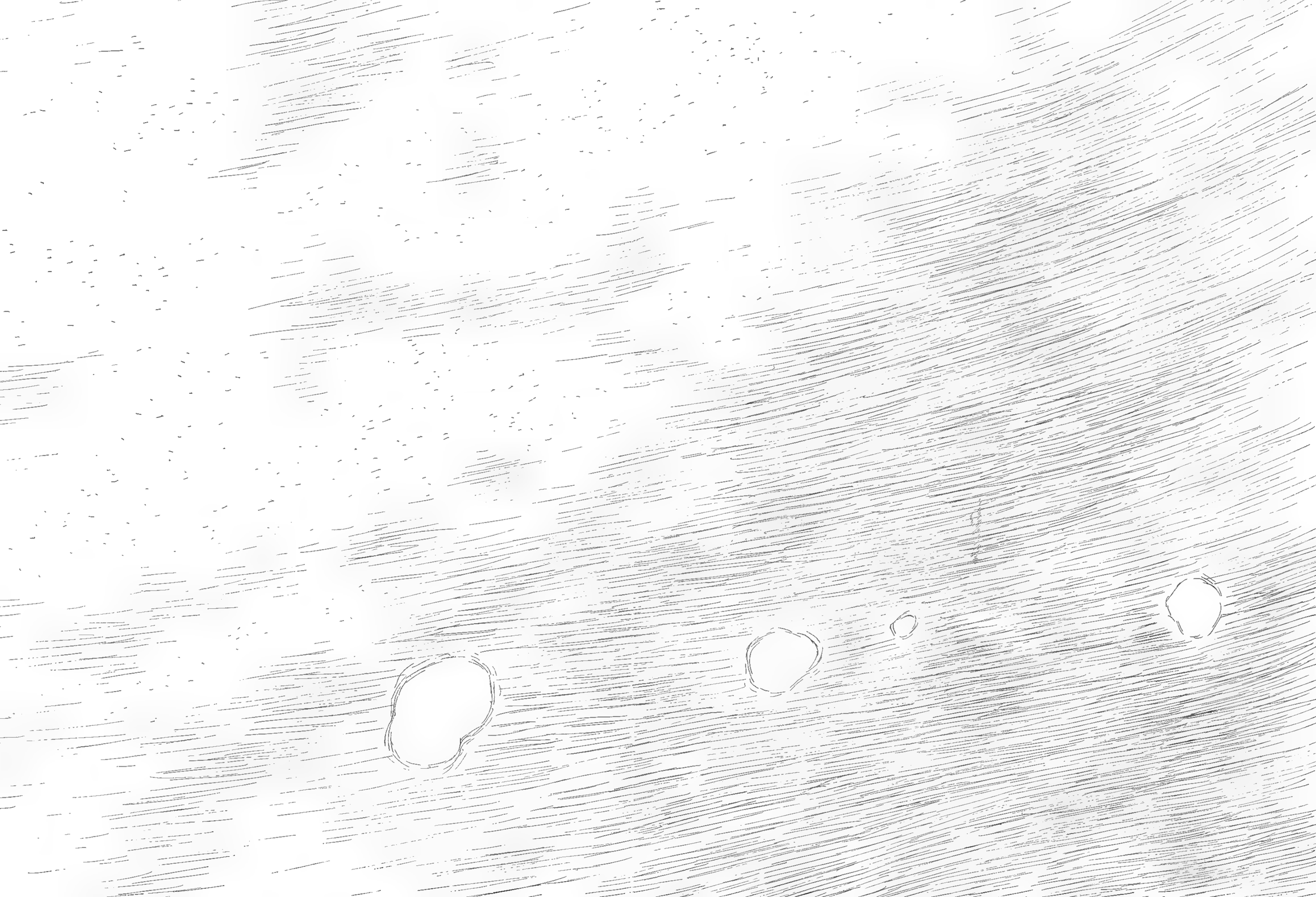


SO
OPEN...

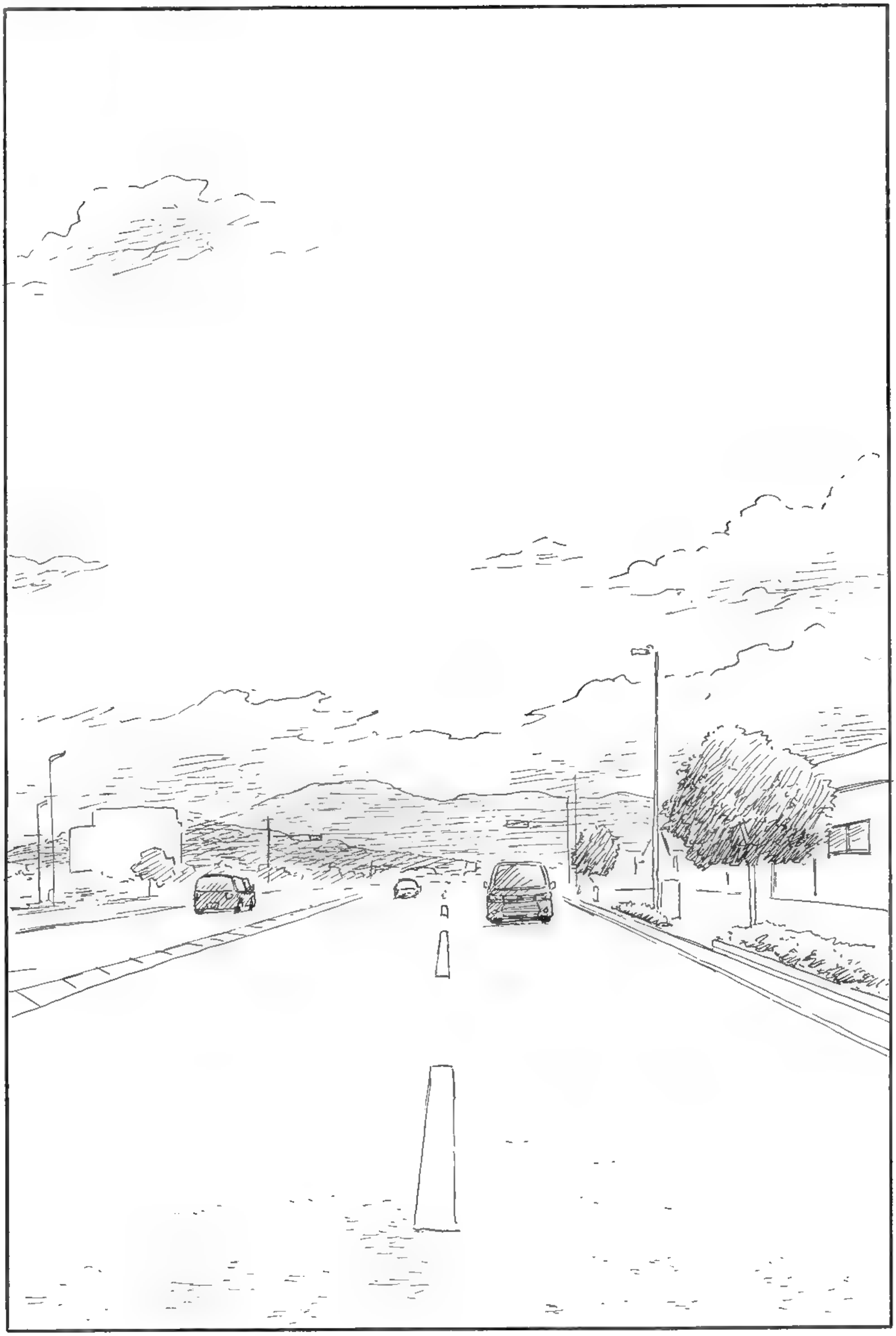








Blood on the Tracks



HEY,

YUIKO.

AROUND WHERE YOU LIVED WHEN YOU WERE A KID?

ISN'T THIS

OH...

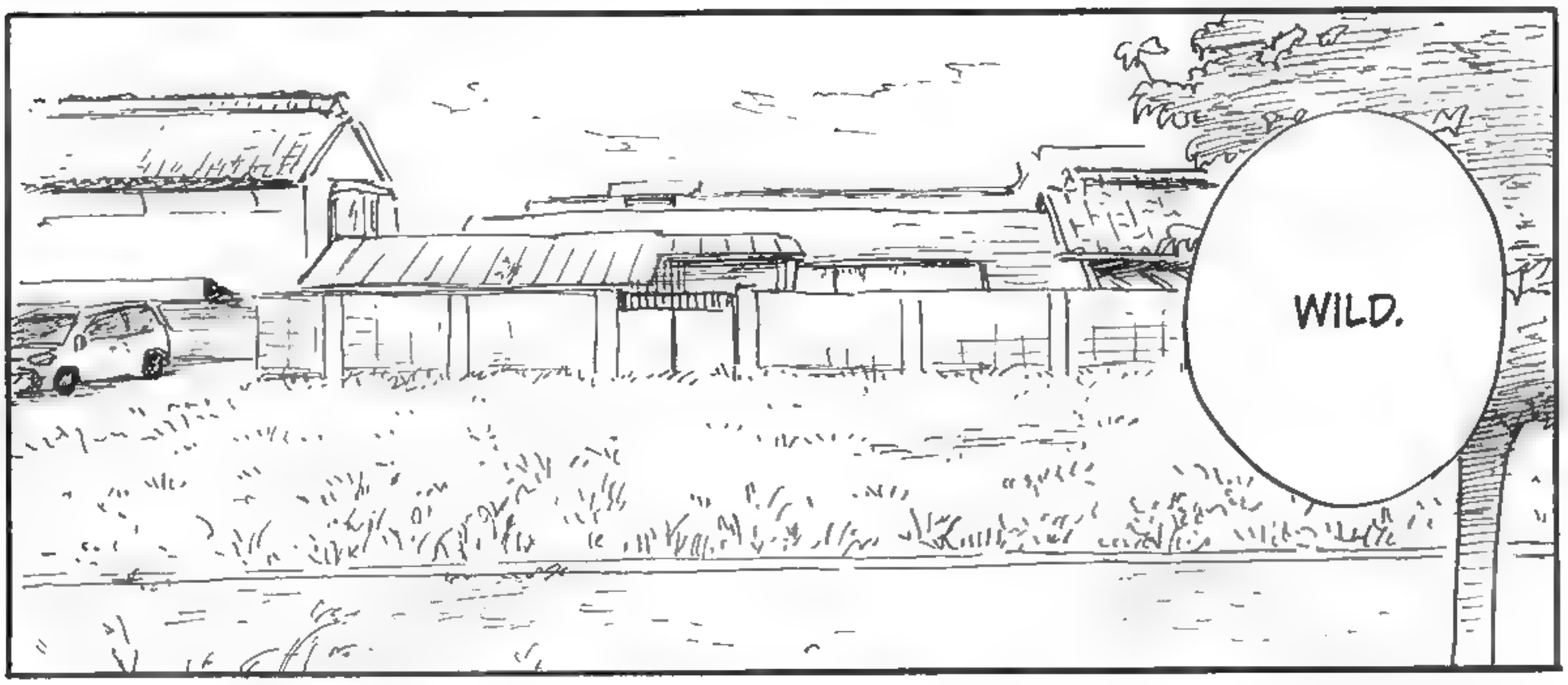
SURE IS.

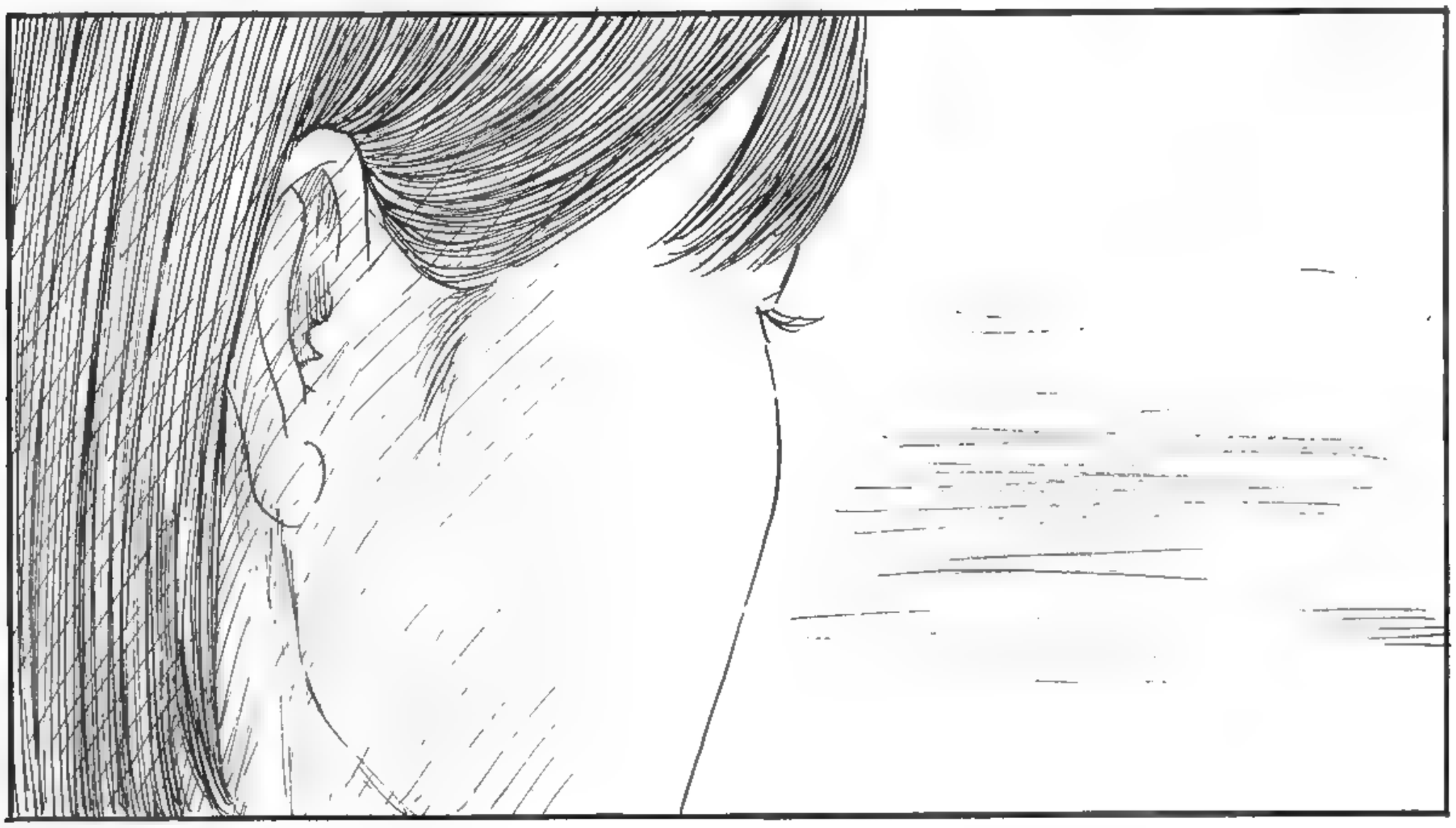
YEAH,

WOW, THINGS HAVE REALLY CHANGED.

EVEN HERE.

LOOK, THAT BUILDING'S EVEN GONE!
OH!


WILD.



HEY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WAS HERE.

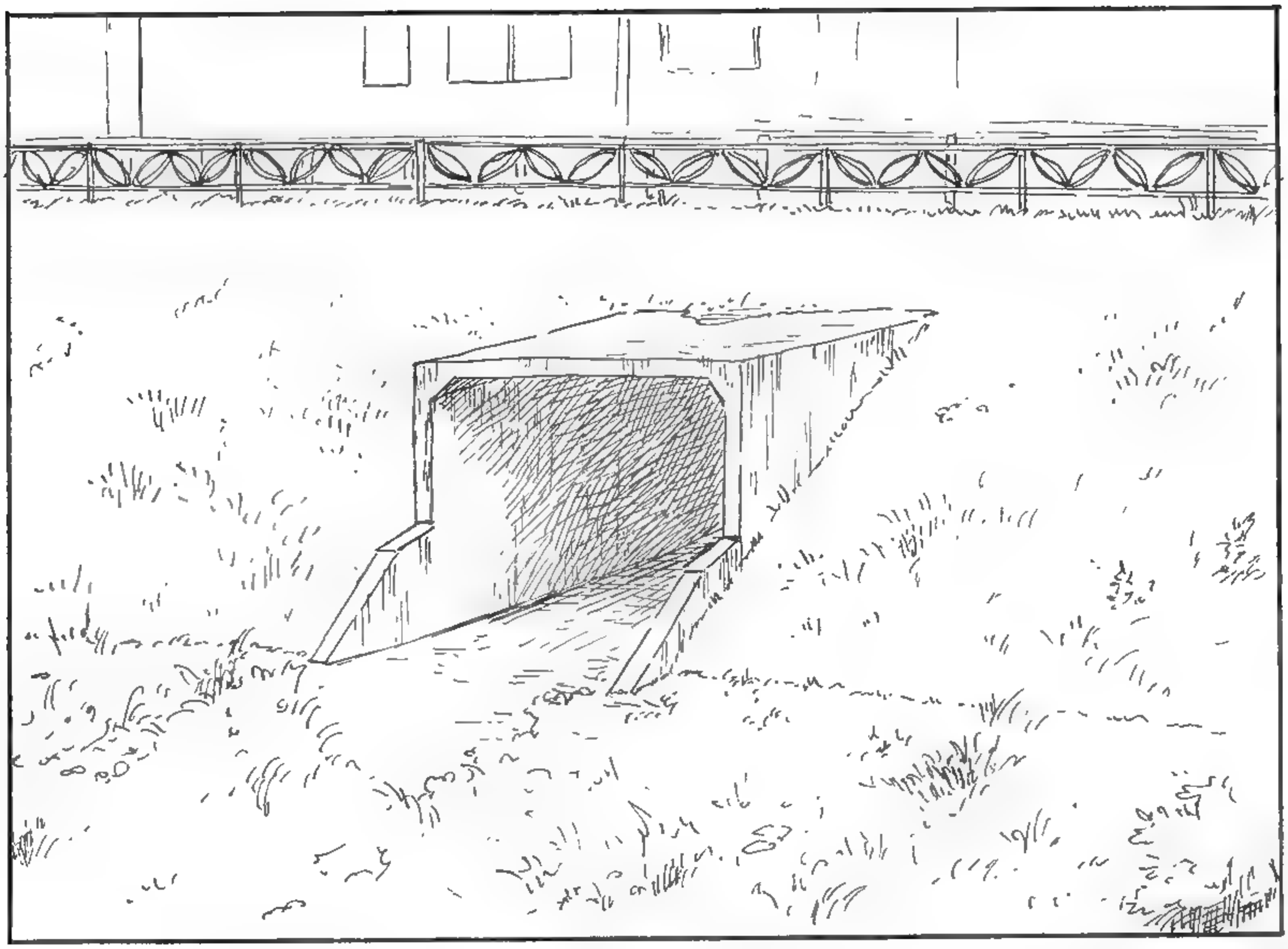
MIND IF WE TAKE A LITTLE LOOK?

OH YEAH?

I WALKED ALONG THIS ROAD

SO MANY TIMES.

...AH.



HEY,

CAN WE GET OUT FOR A BIT?

WATCHES JEWELRY
Nakakei

WALKING AROUND HERE,

I FEEL LIKE I'M IN JUNIOR HIGH AGAIN.

REALLY BRINGS ME BACK.

OTA'S JEANS

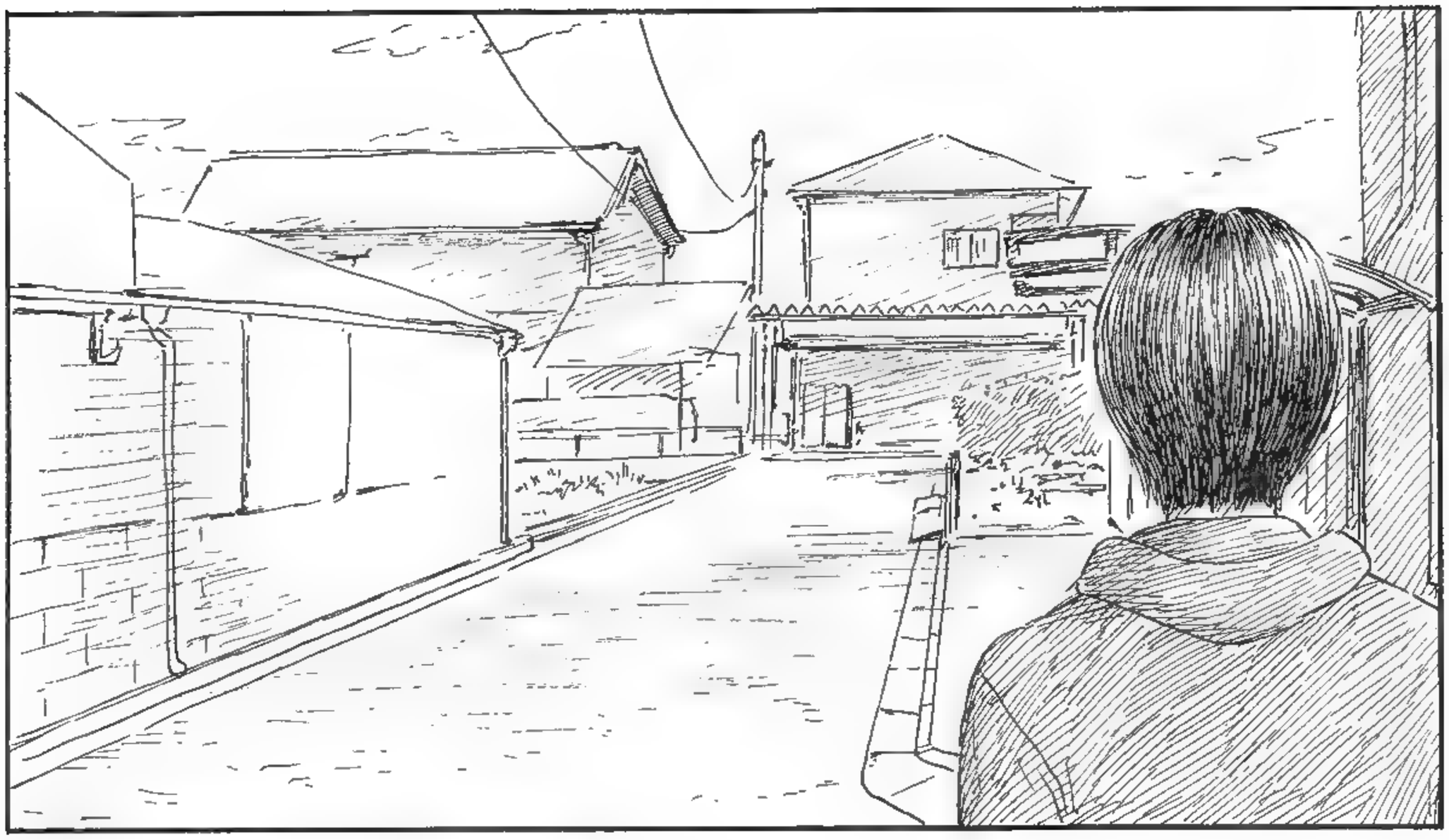
OOH, I REMEMBER THAT SIGN!

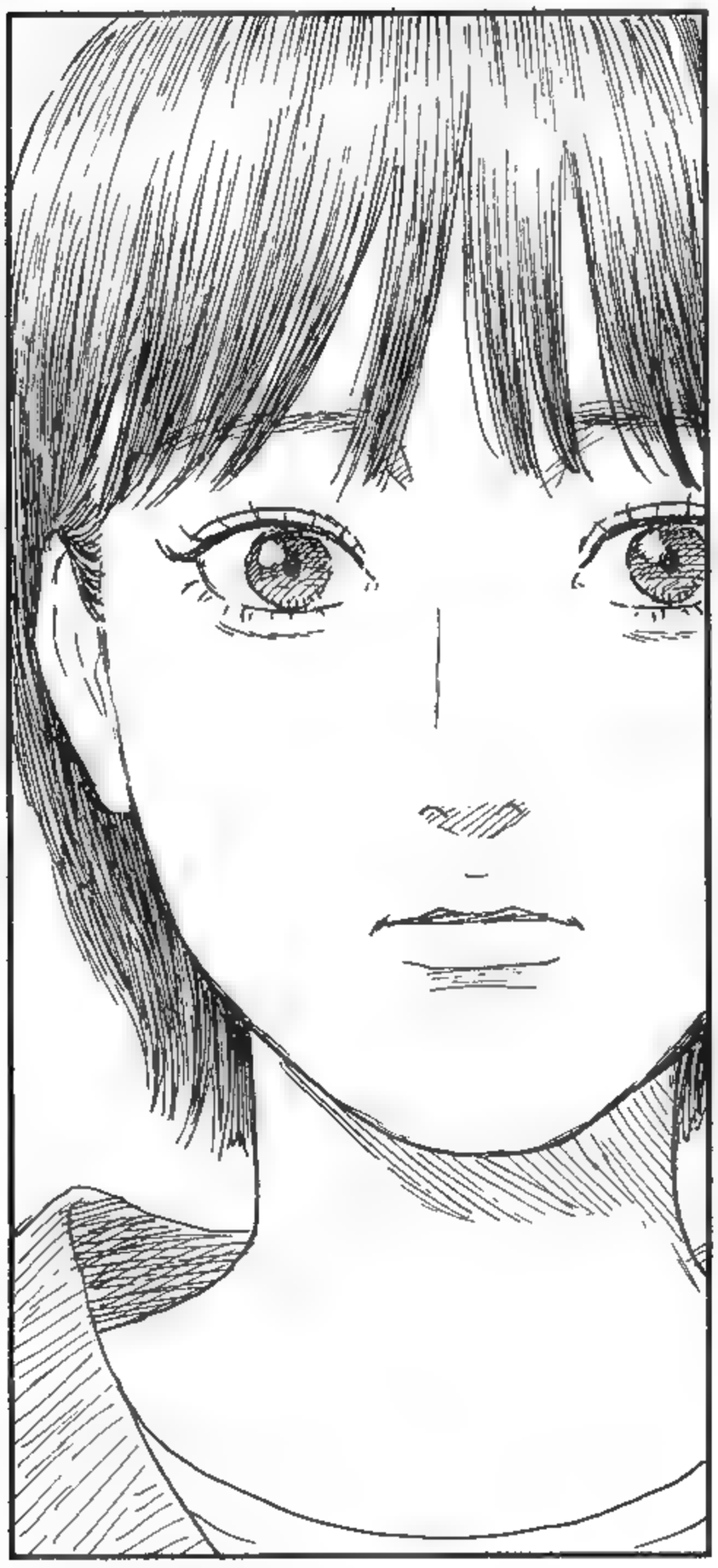
THIS ROAD...

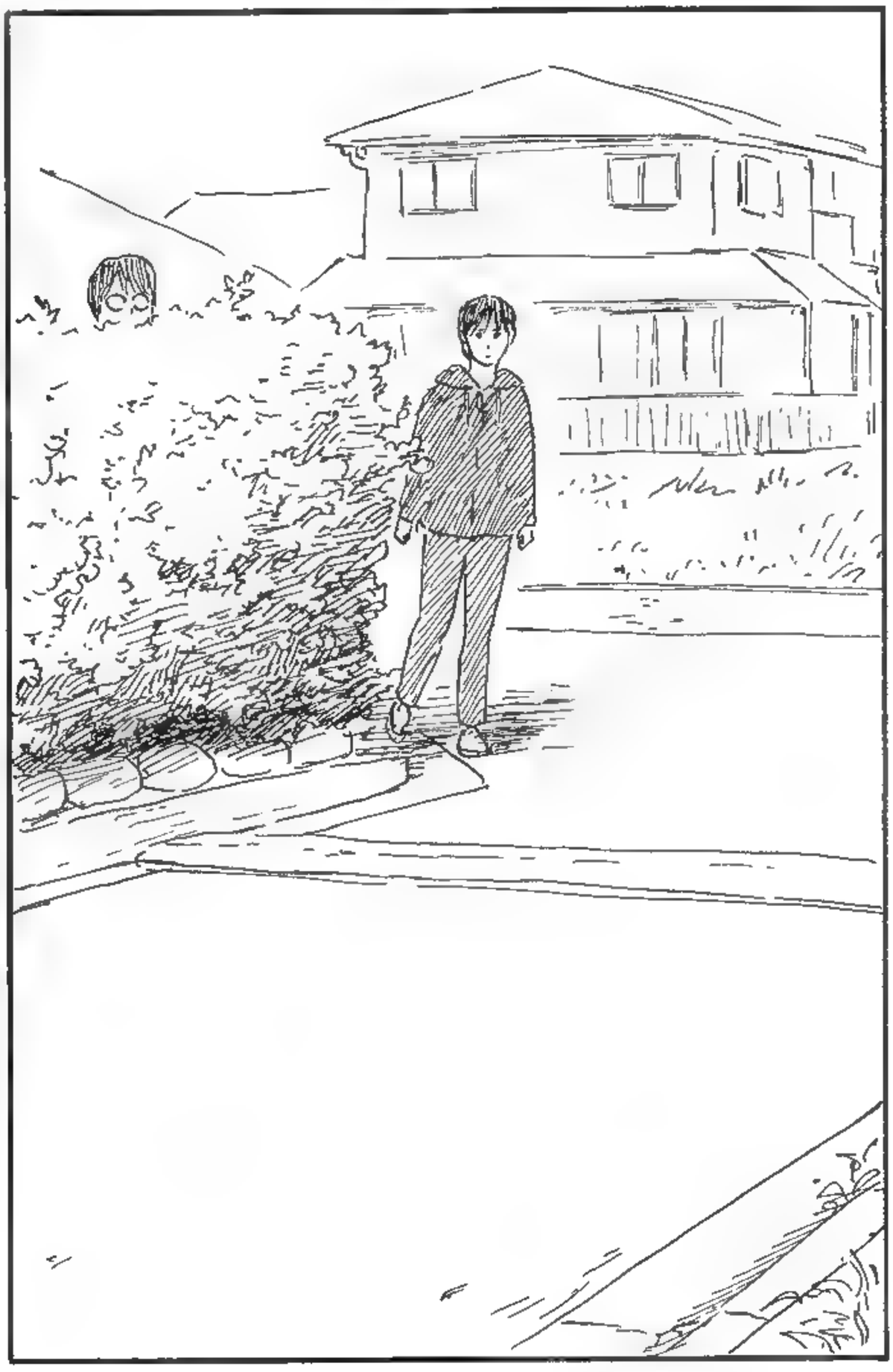
OH...

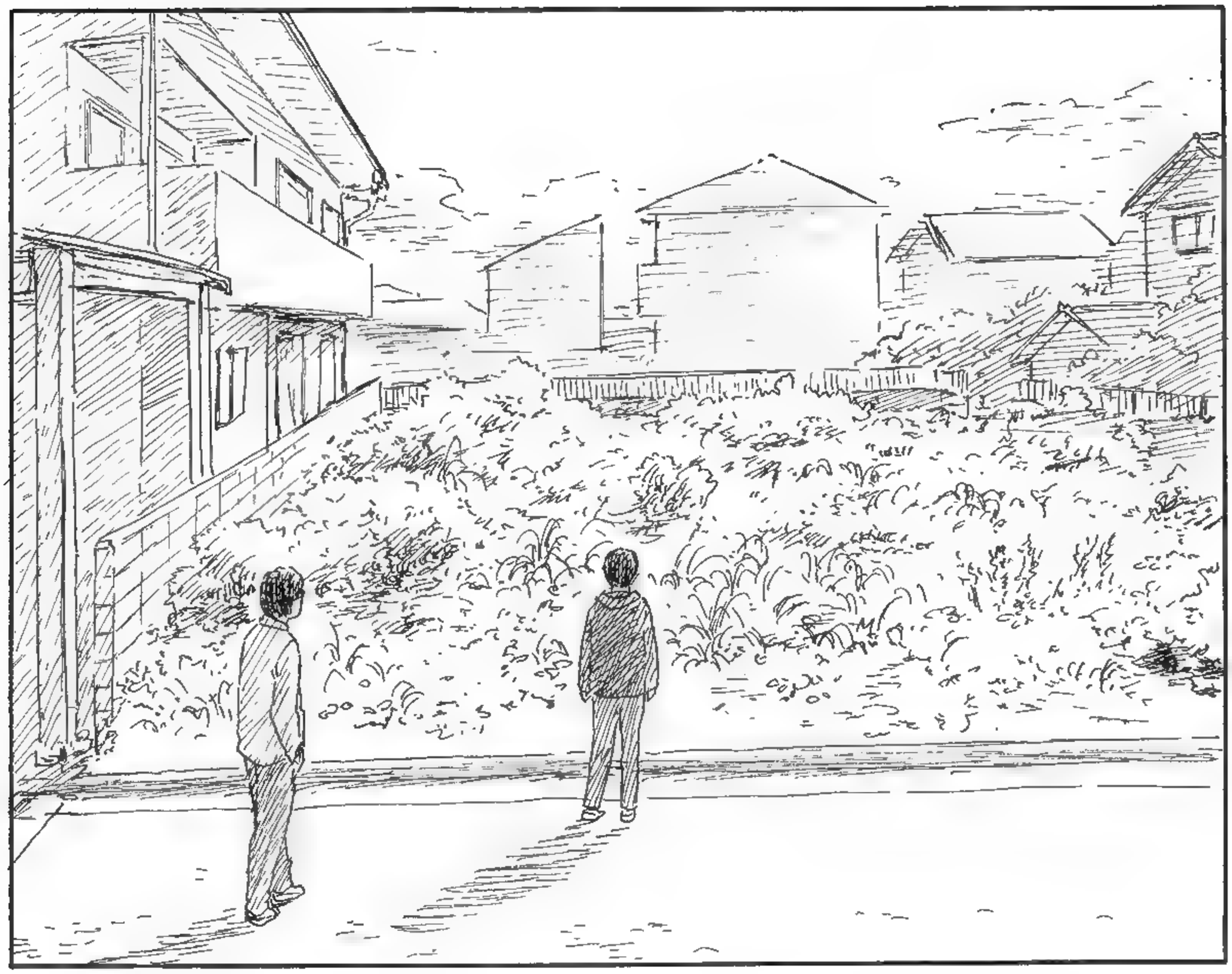
SURE.

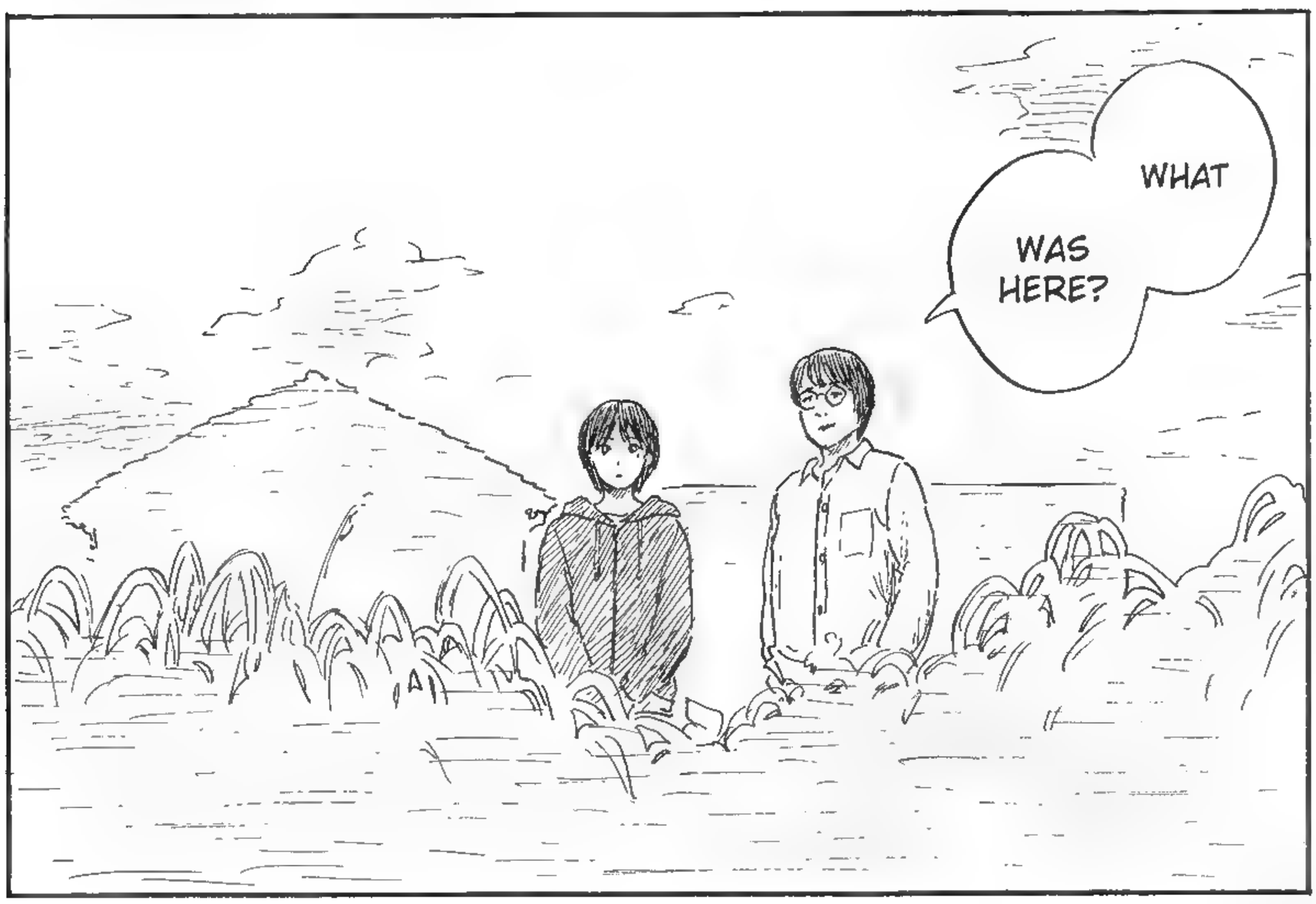
CAN WE GO DOWN HERE?



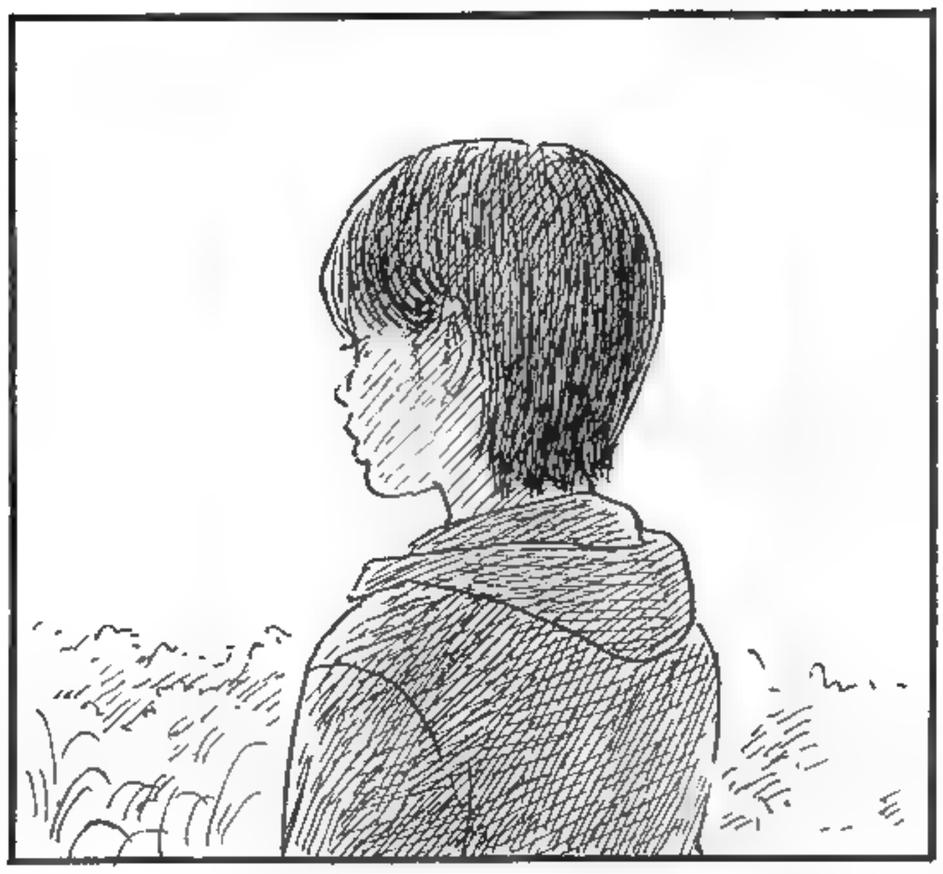


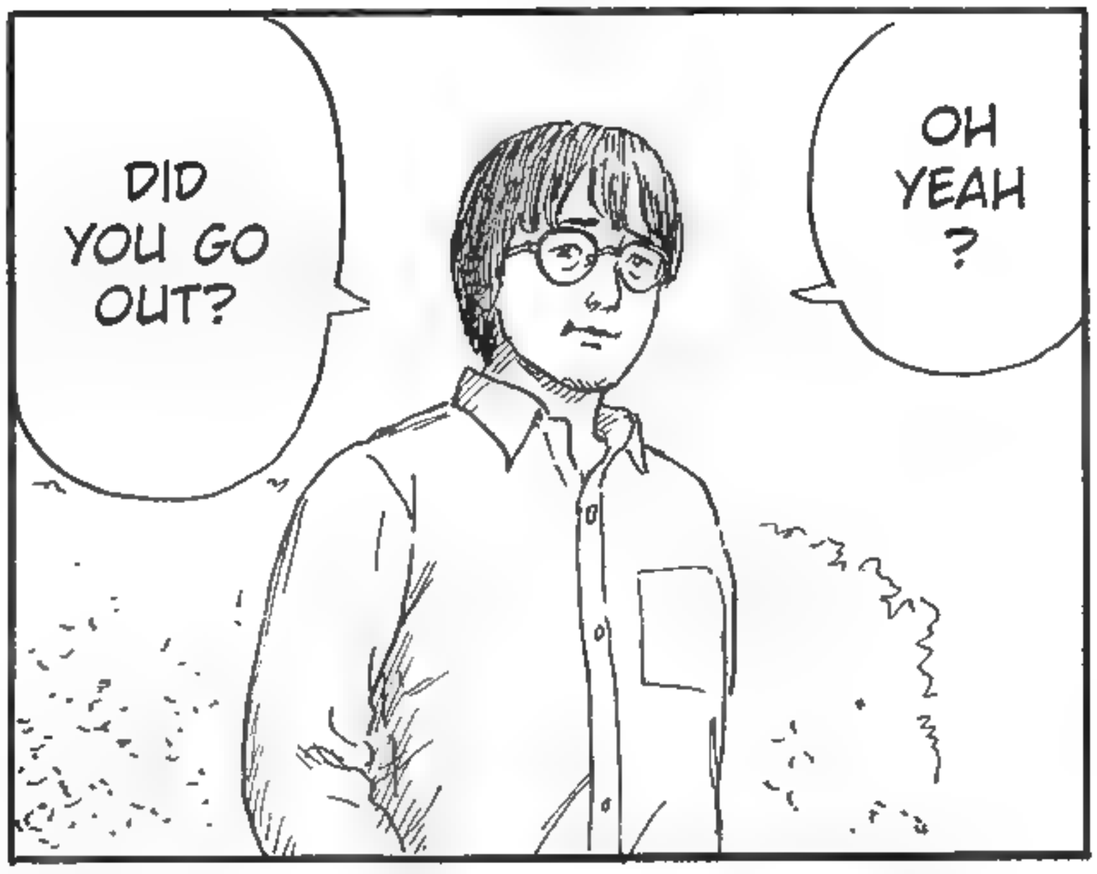


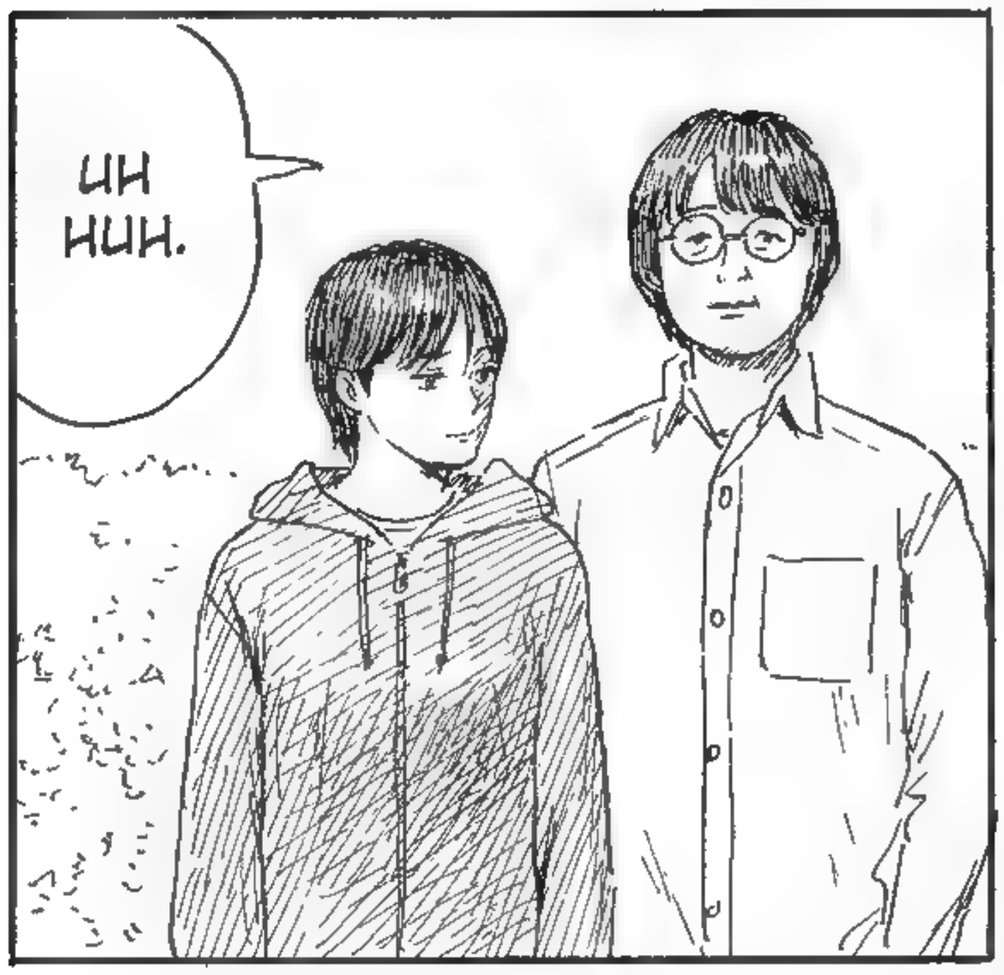


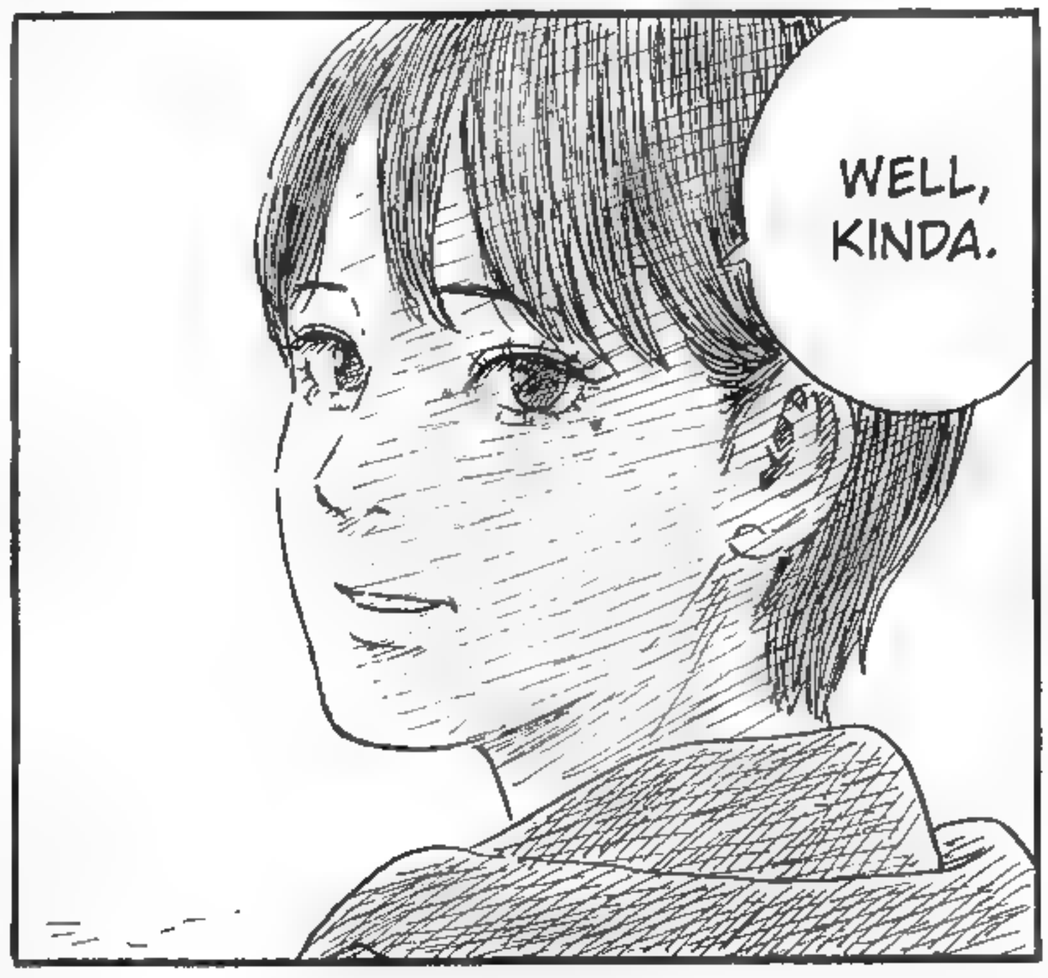

WHAT
WAS
HERE?

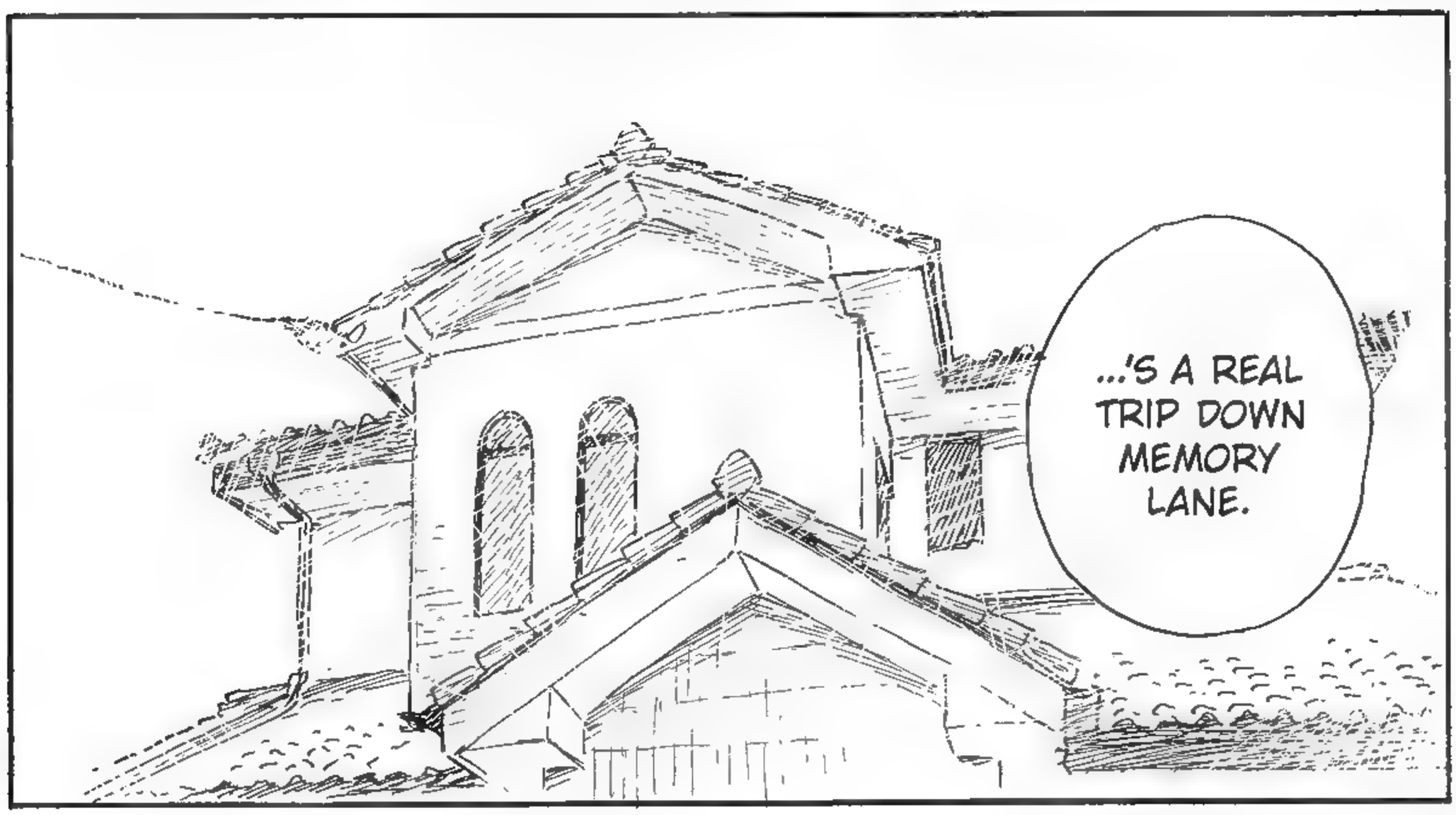
...THIS




DID YOU GO OUT?
OH YEAH ?


UH HUH.


WELL, KINDA.


...'S A REAL TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE.

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT AT ALL.

...I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT'S HE DOING NOW, THAT GUY?

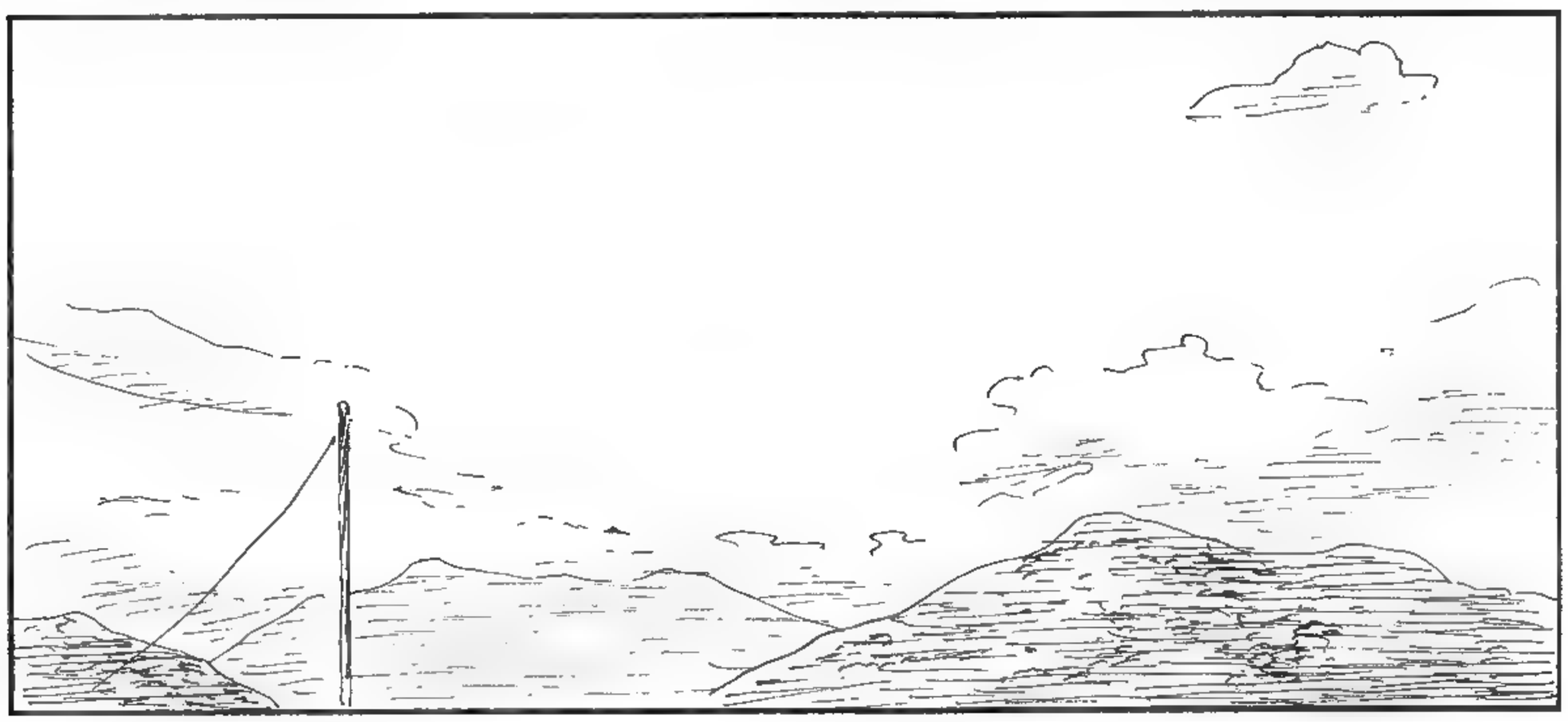
IF HE'S ALIVE OR DEAD.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW

I HOPE HE'S ALIVE, THOUGH.

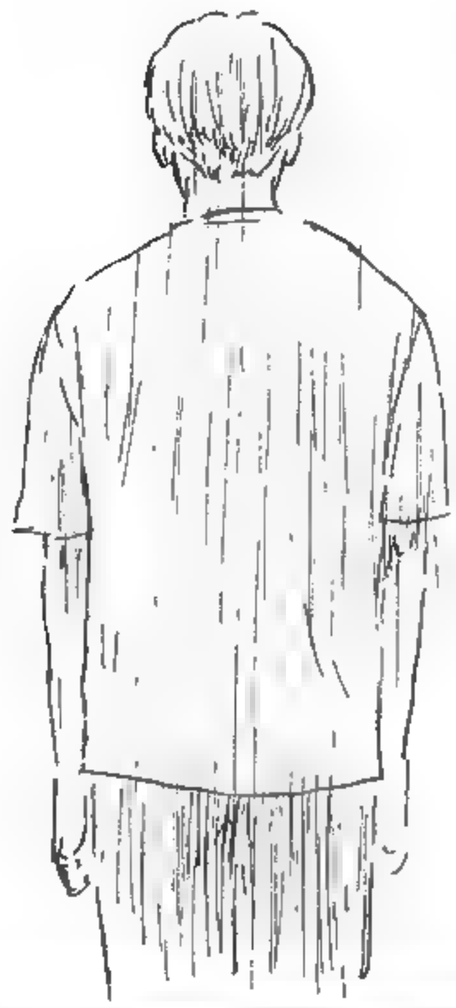
'KAY.

LET'S GO.
SORRY, SORRY.



That night,

I had a dream.

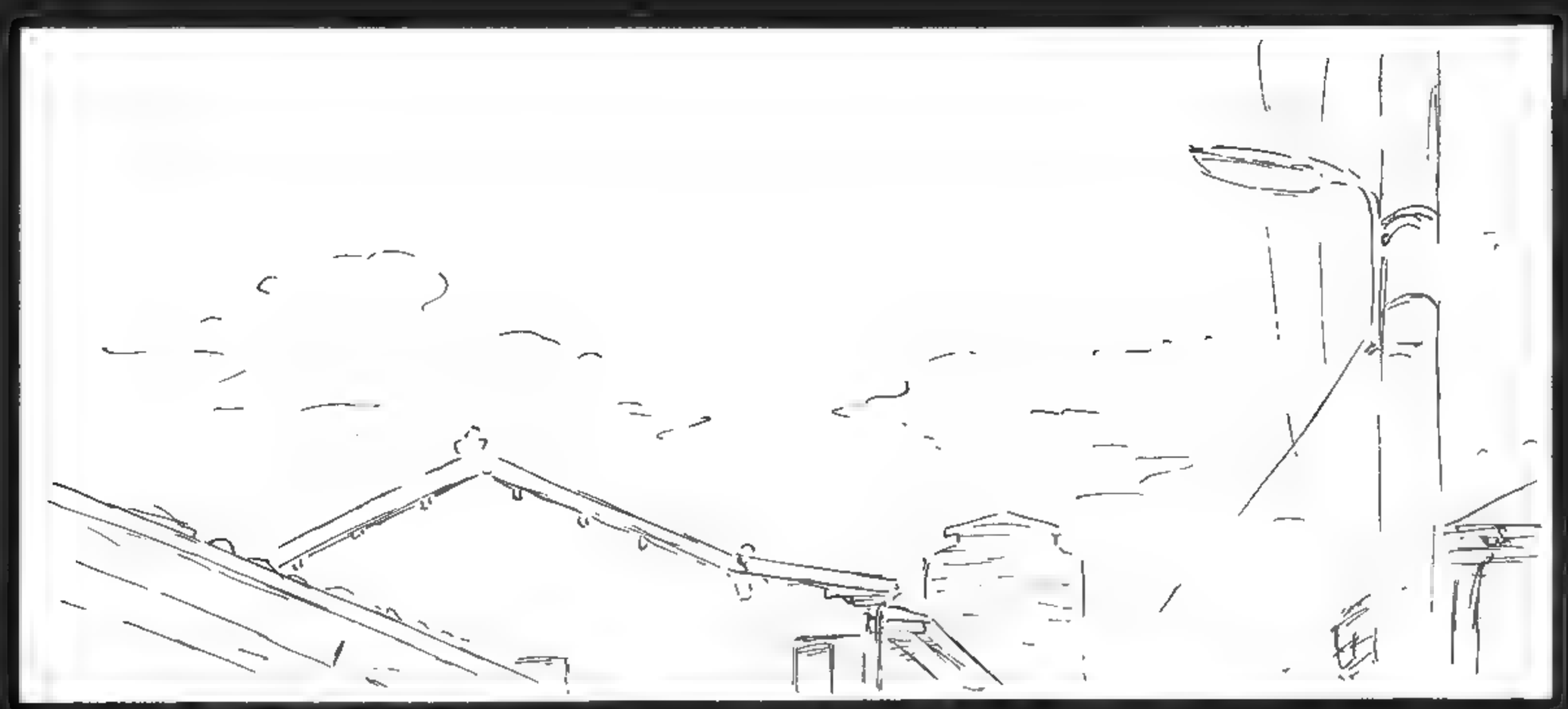


He was in it.

I knew it was him.

He'd gotten older,

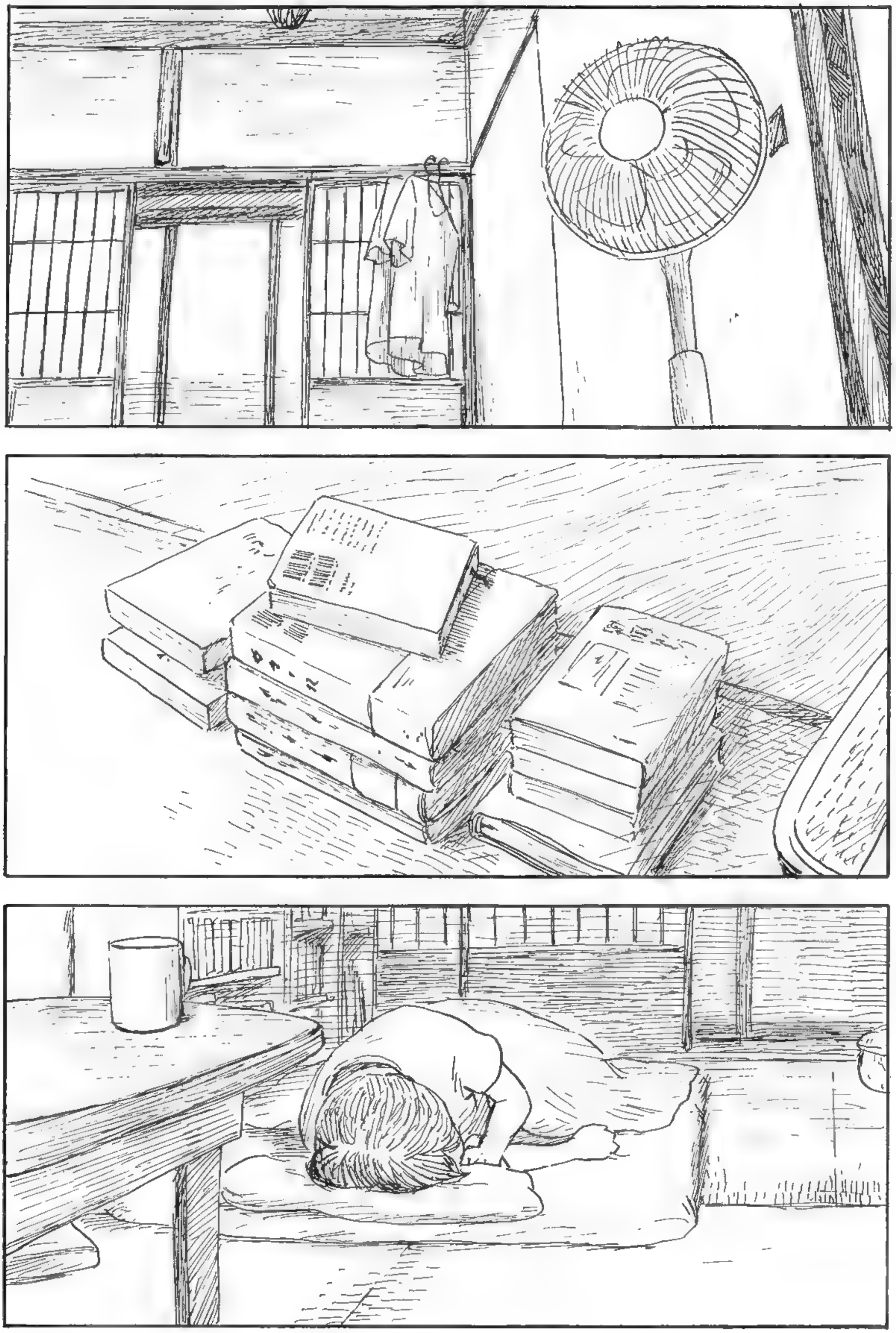
and was living in some unfamiliar town.



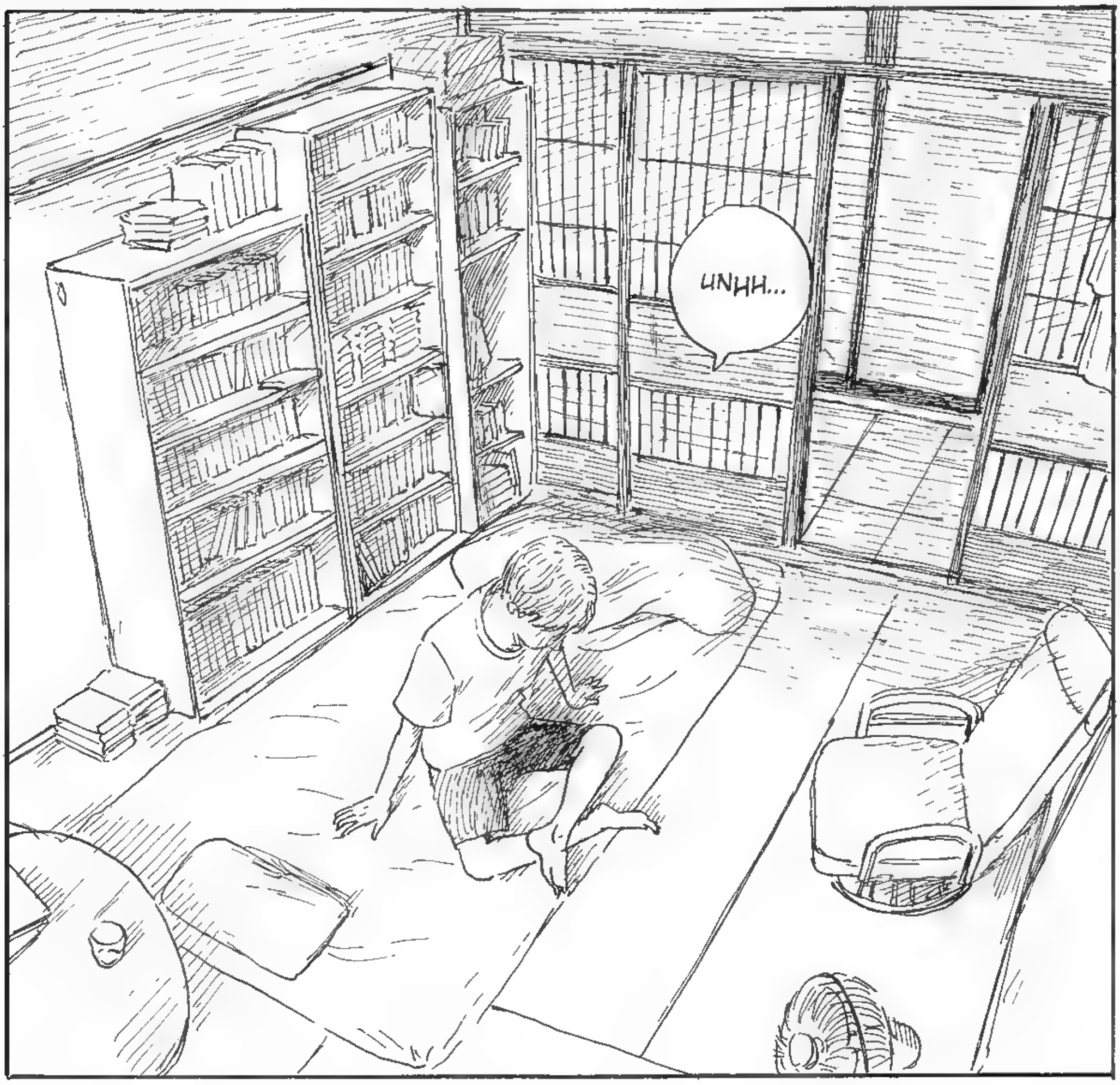
His face in profile

looked so peaceful.

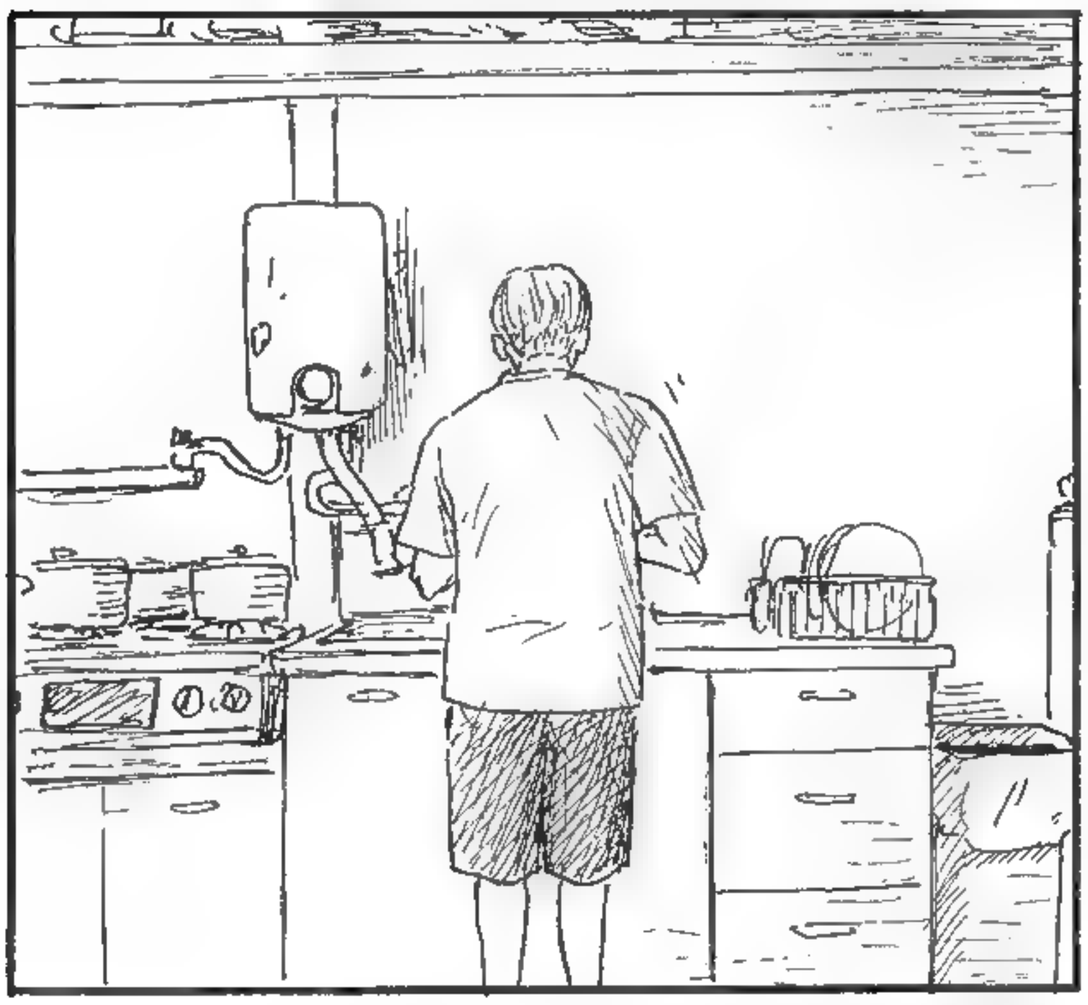
It made me happy.

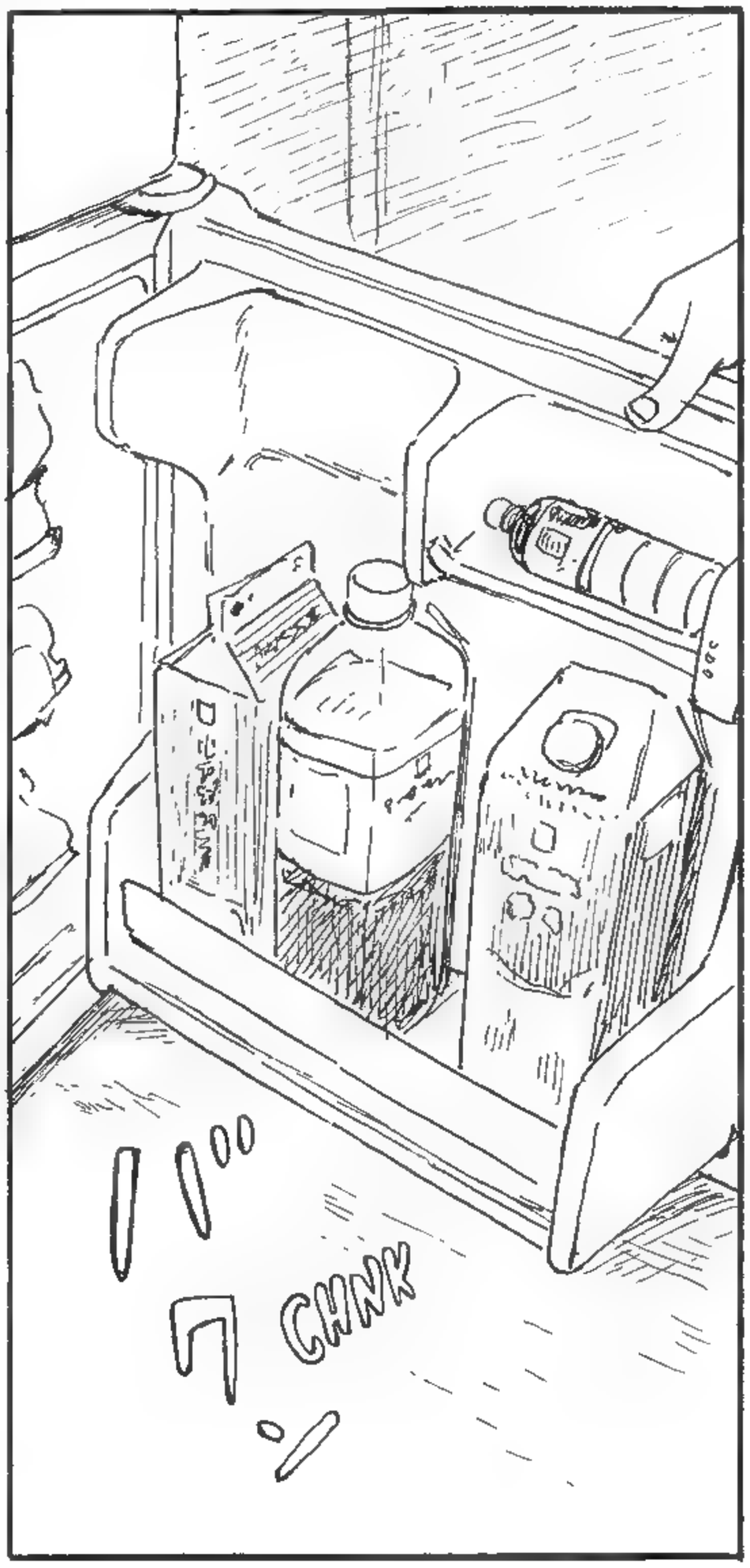


MM...


UNHH...

HFFF...


BLUP
BLUP


CHNK

GULP

GULP

RATTLE

カラ

GULP

コト

TUNK

NEEKNIK

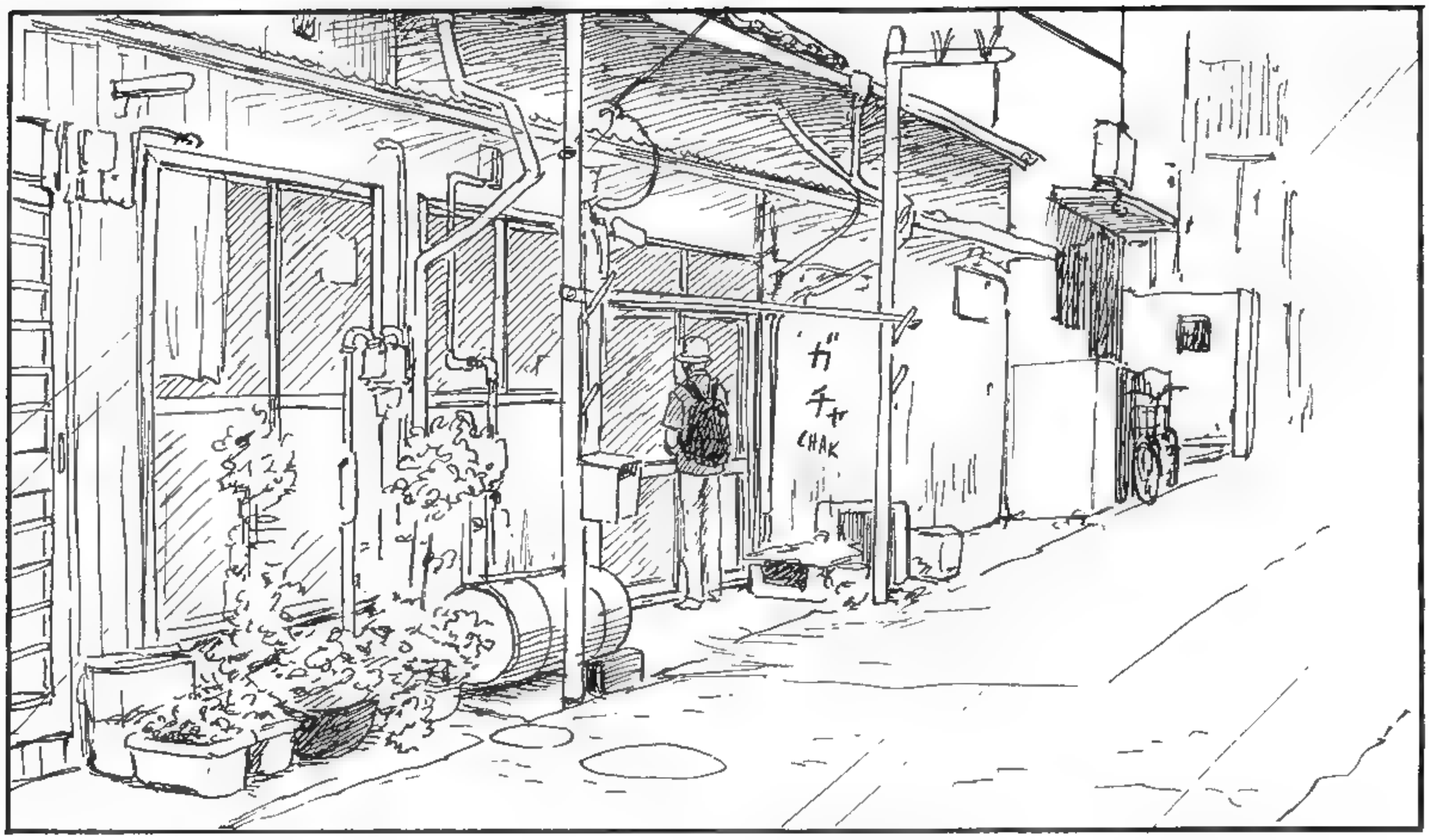
ZIKNEE

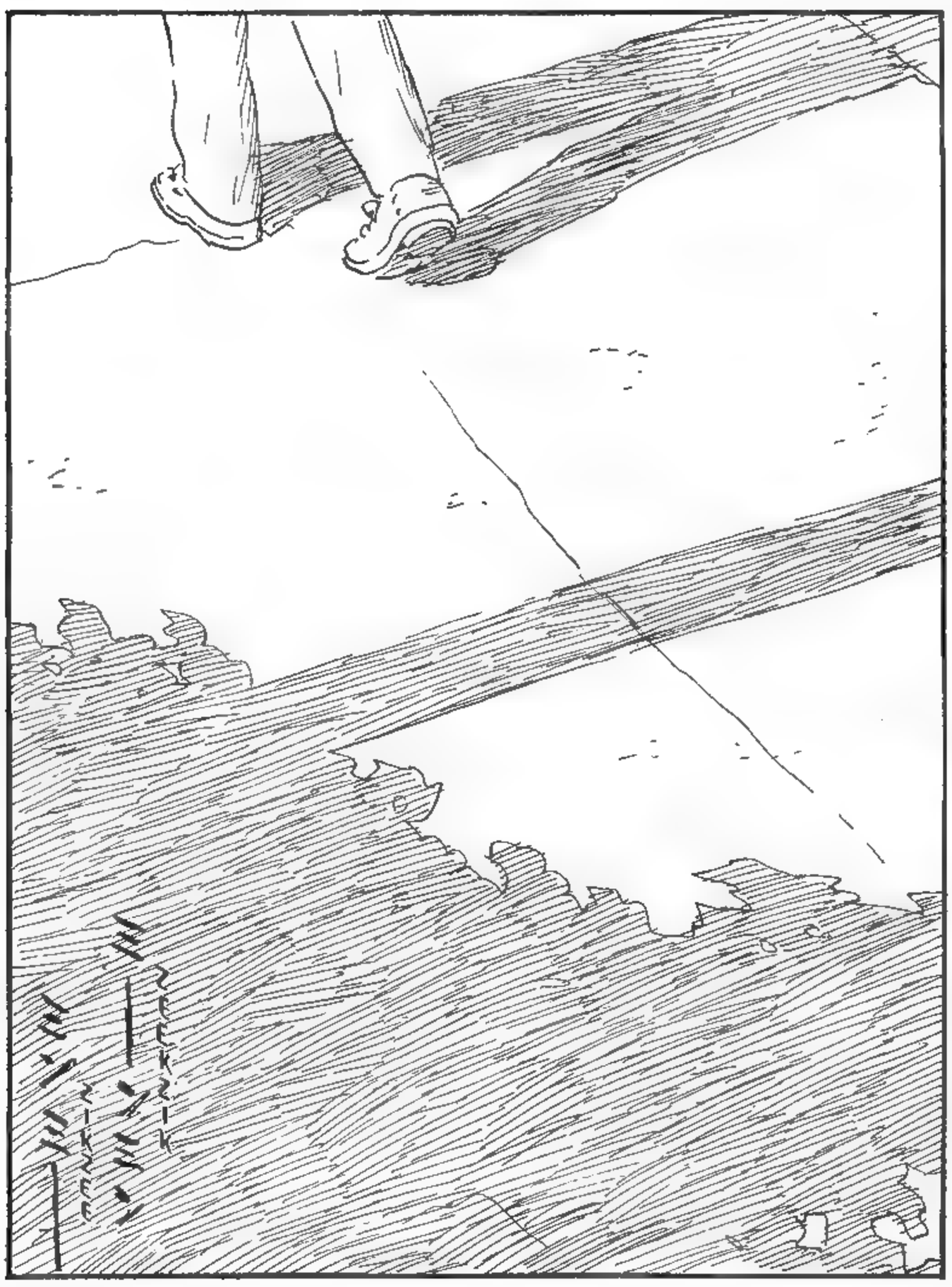
NEEKNIK

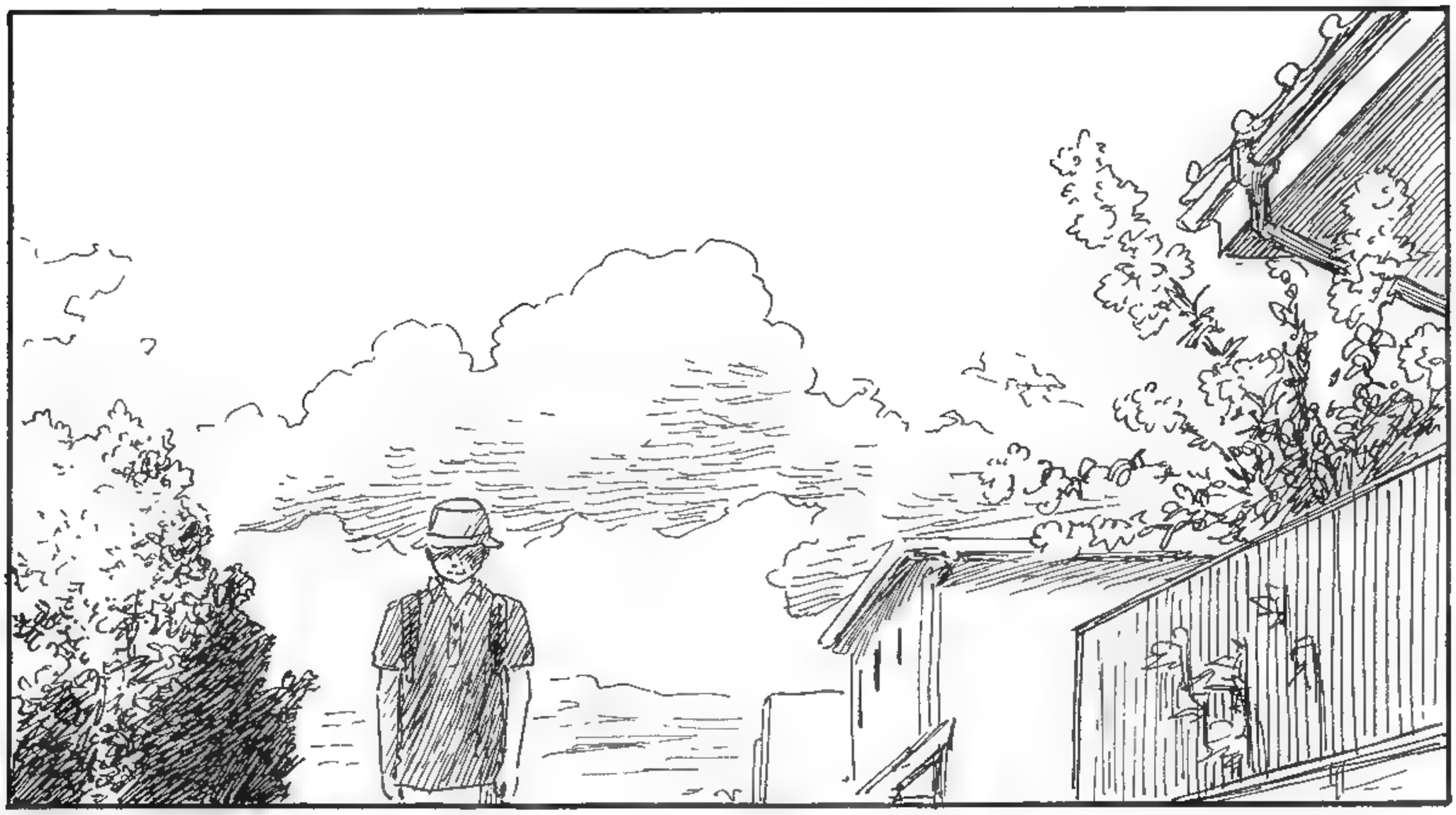
NEEKNIK

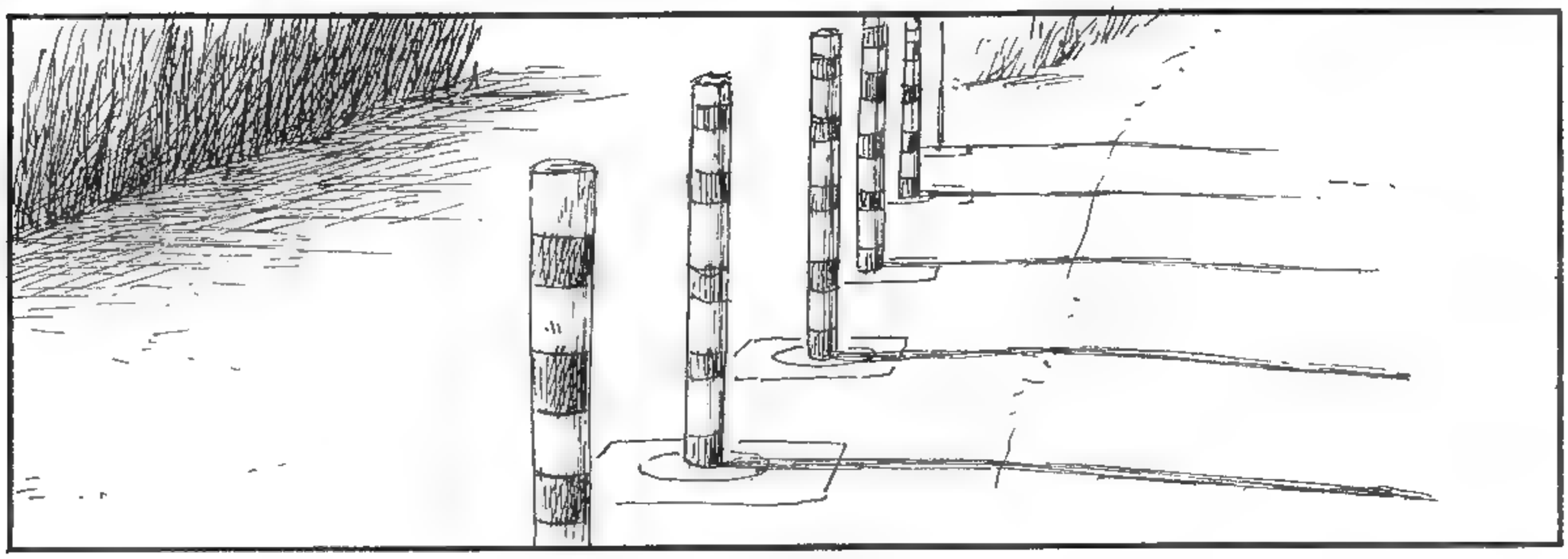
RATTLE

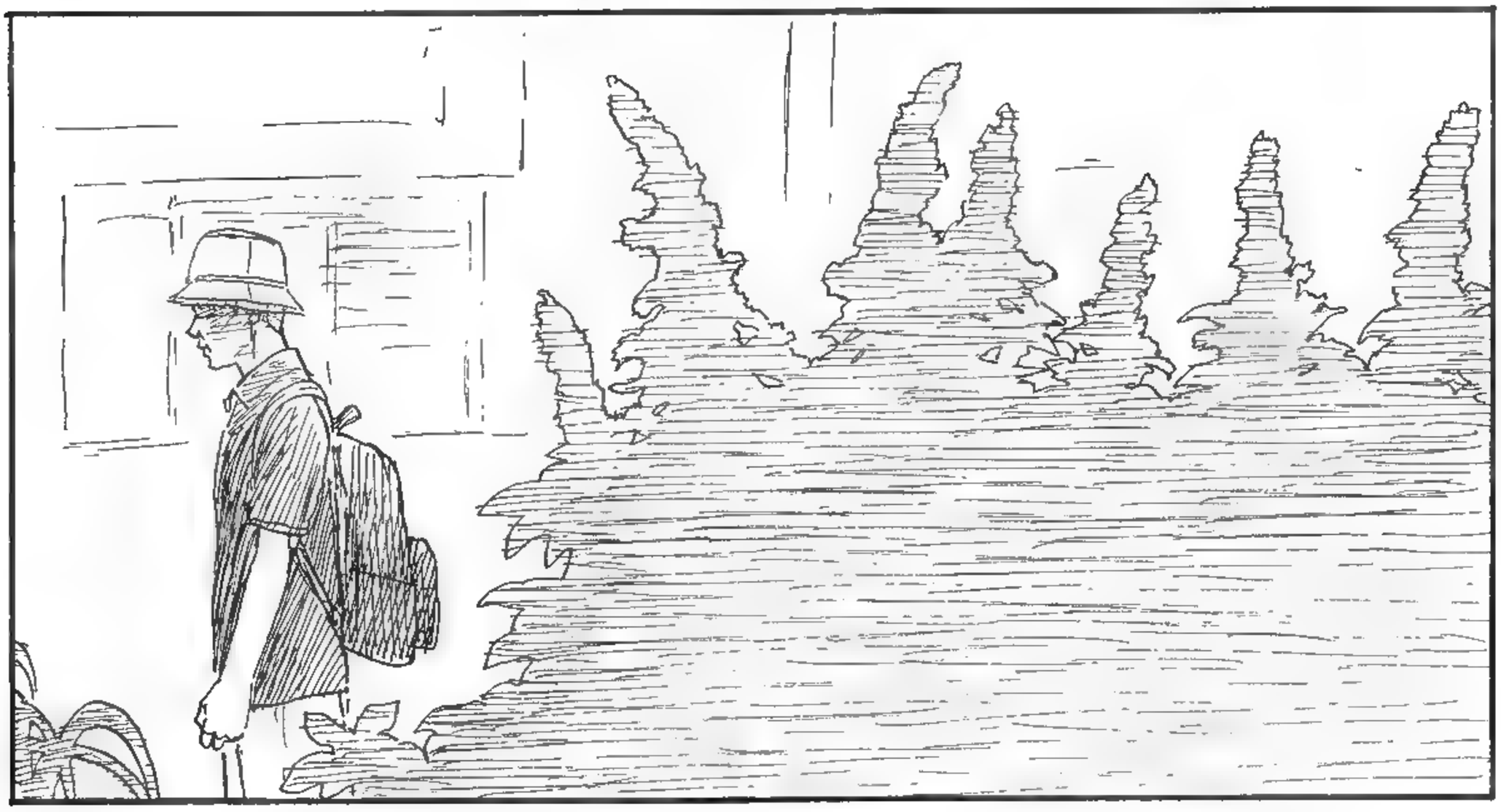
RATTLE


ガチャ
CHAK



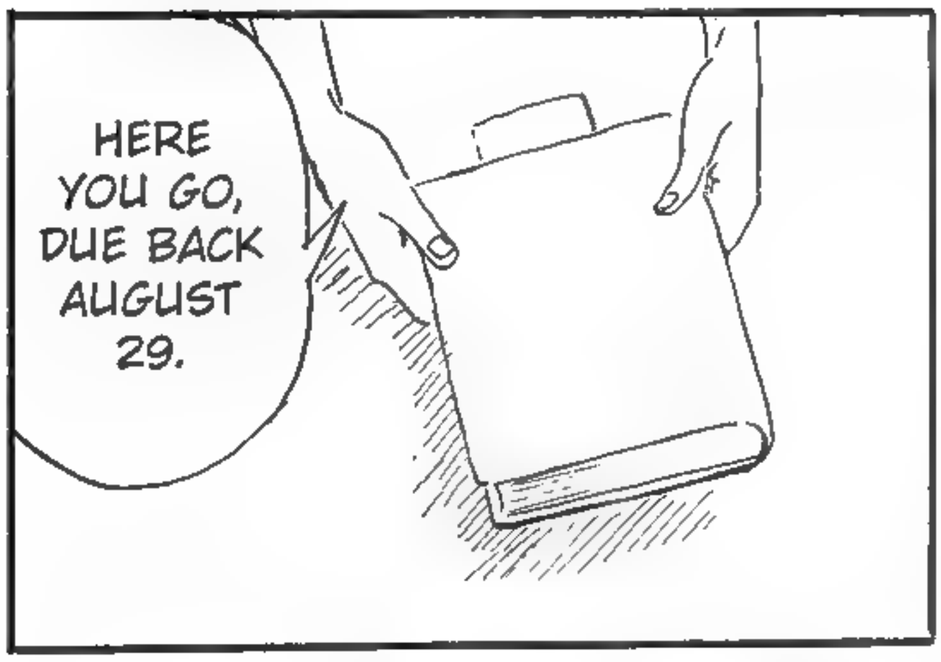






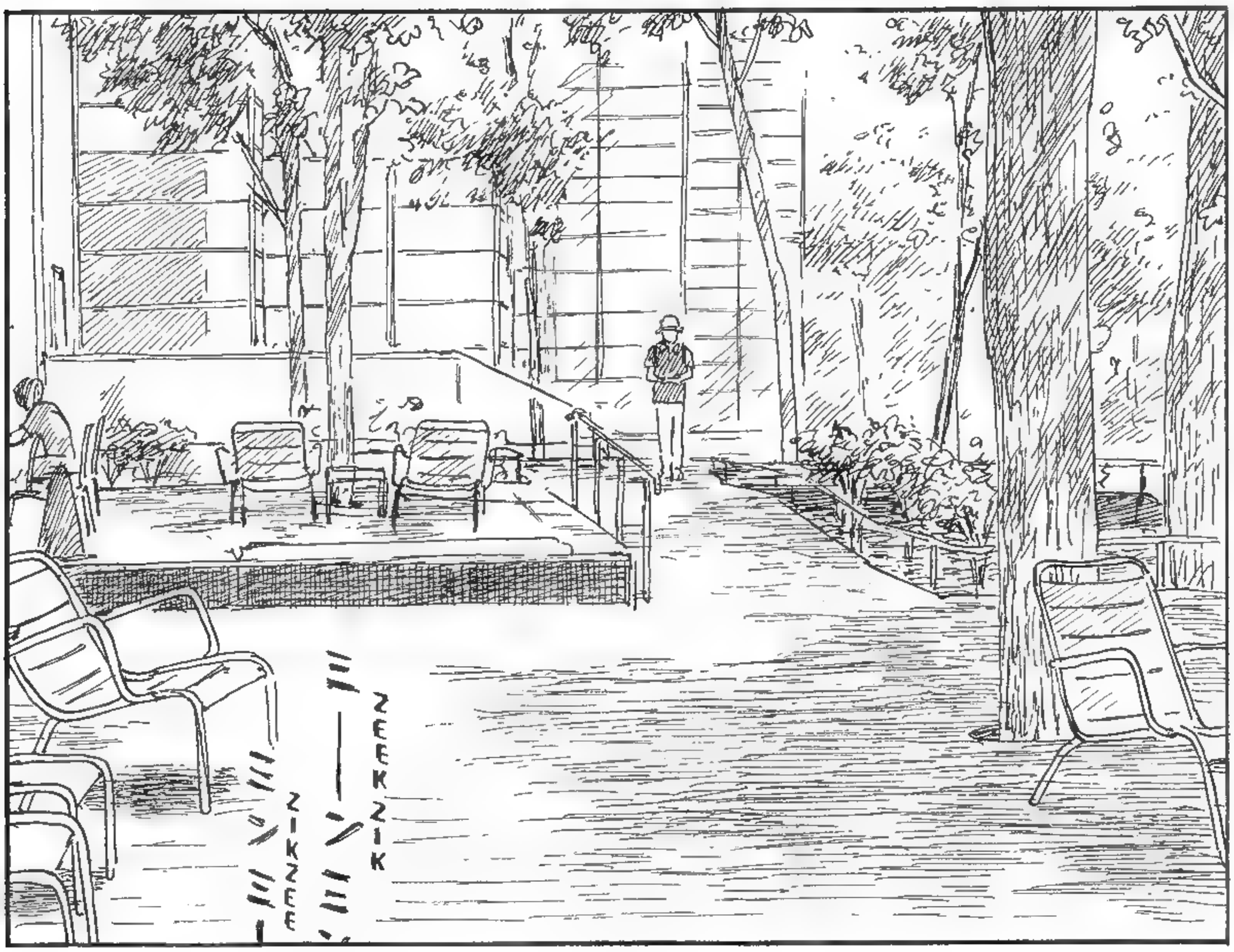
HFF

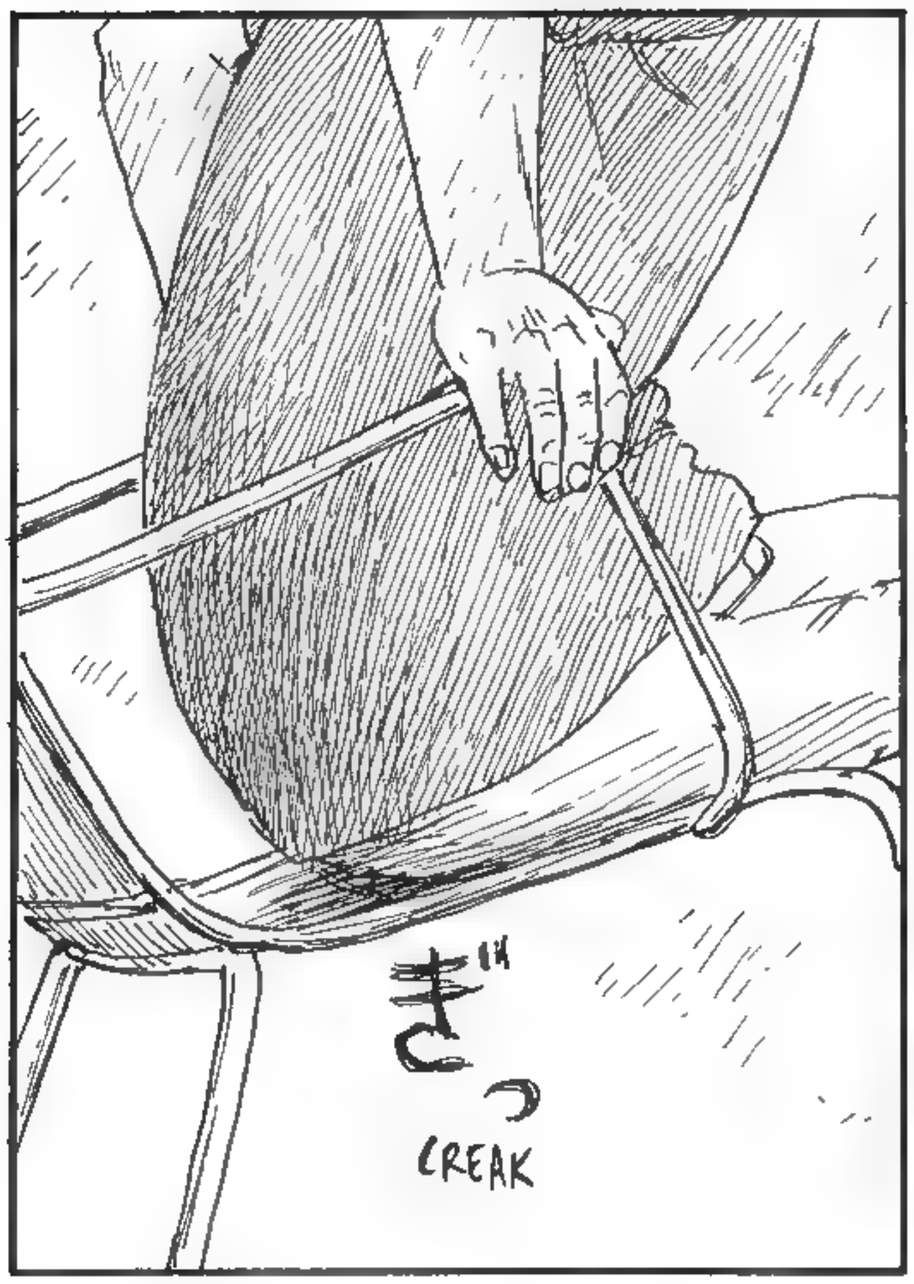
HFF

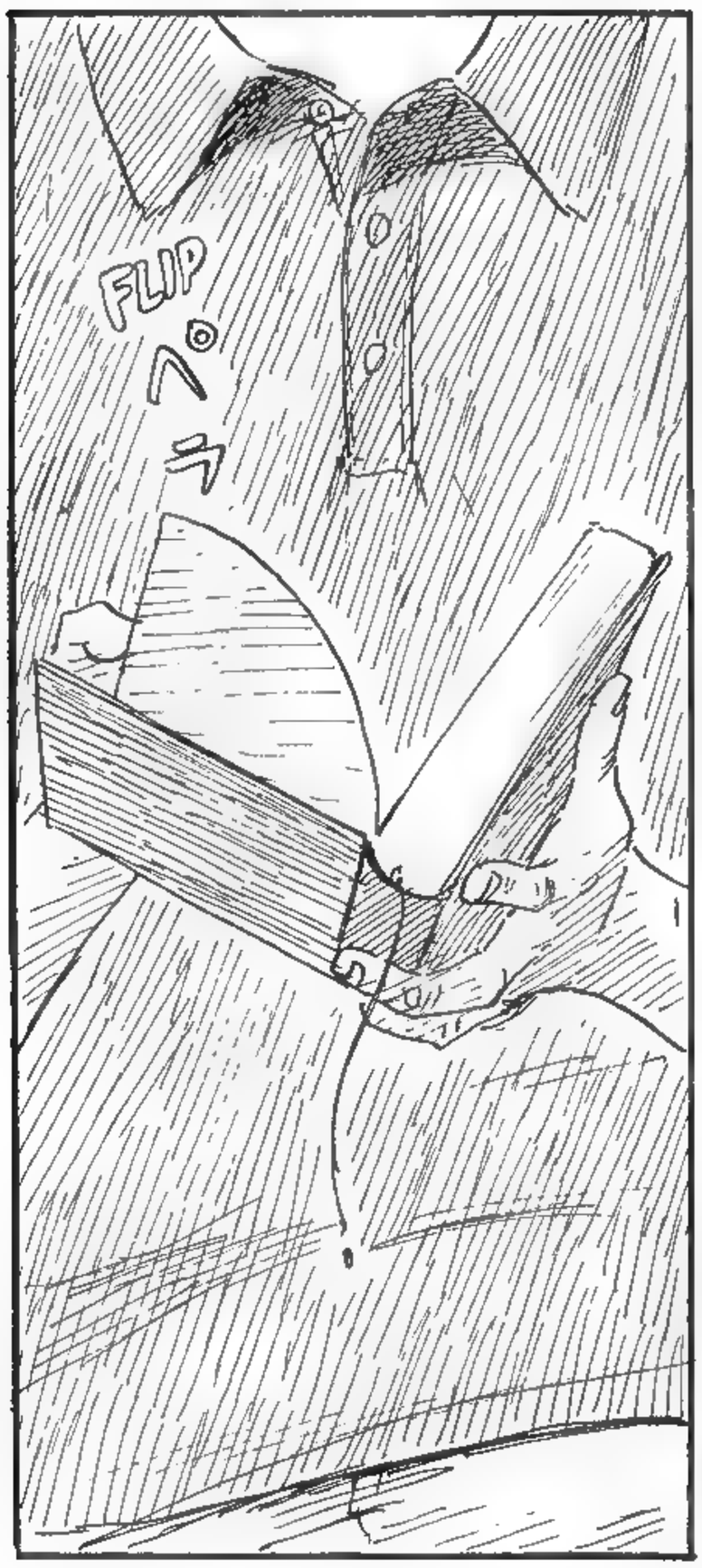

HERE YOU GO, DUE BACK AUGUST 29.

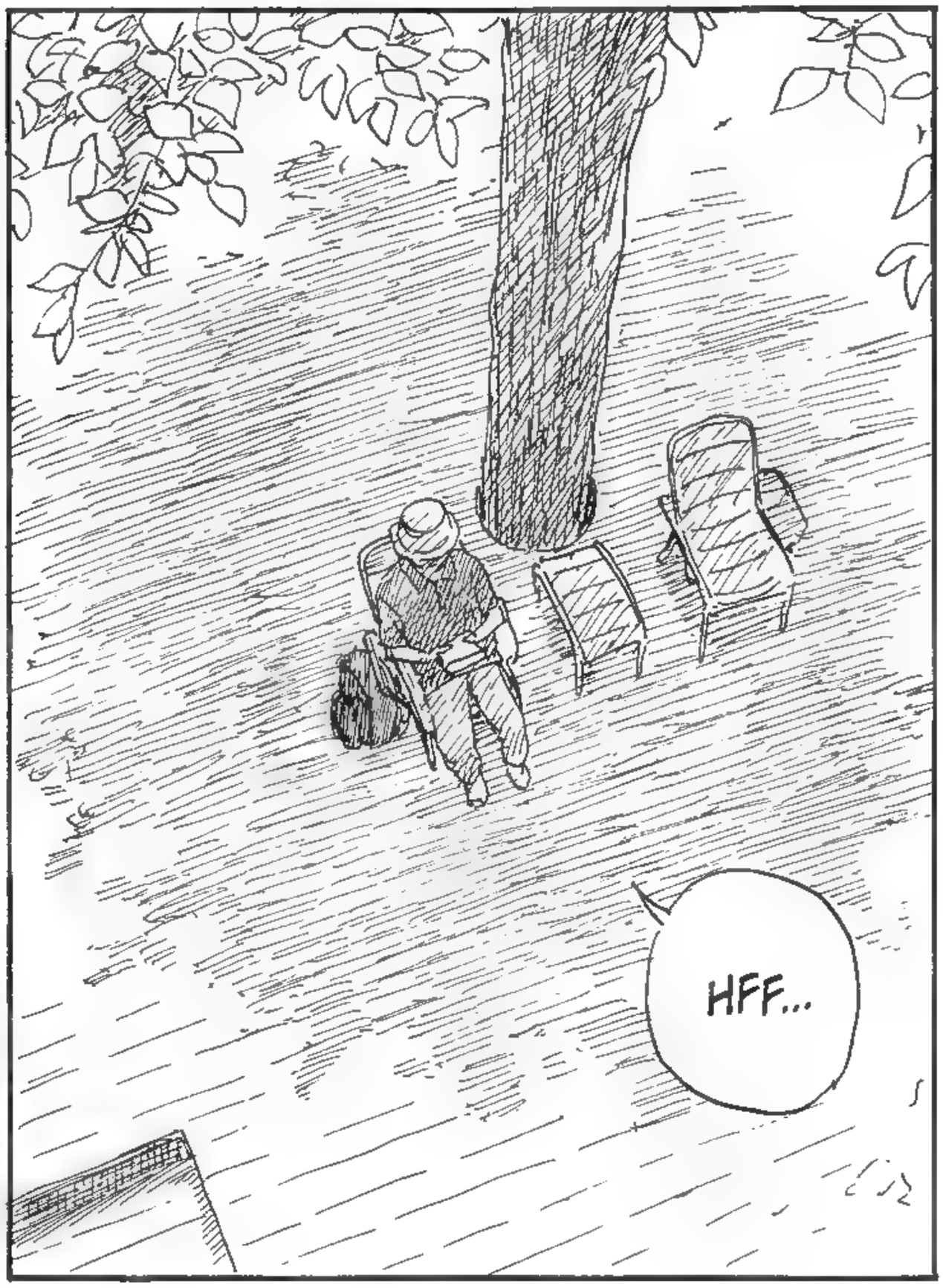
CHECKOUT
JUST THIS, PLEASE.
OKAY, ONE SEC.

THANKS.

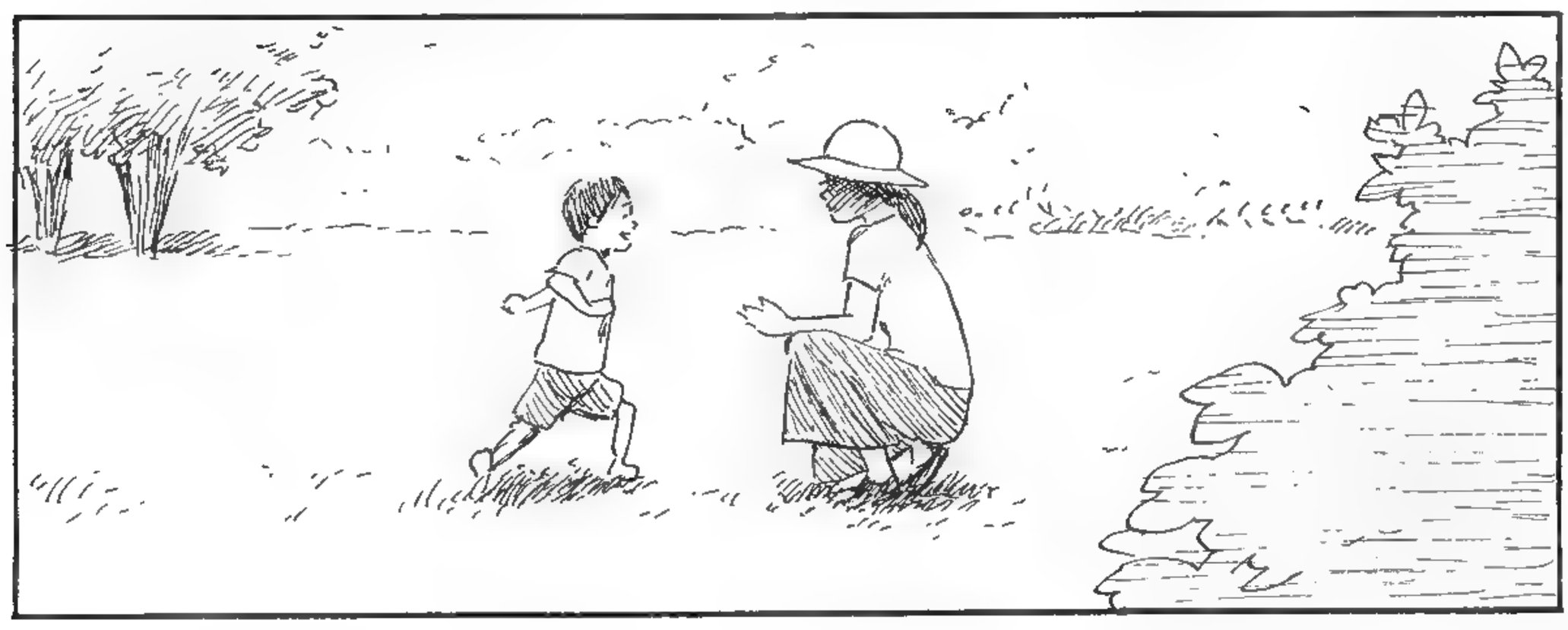

ZIKZEE
ZEEKZIK

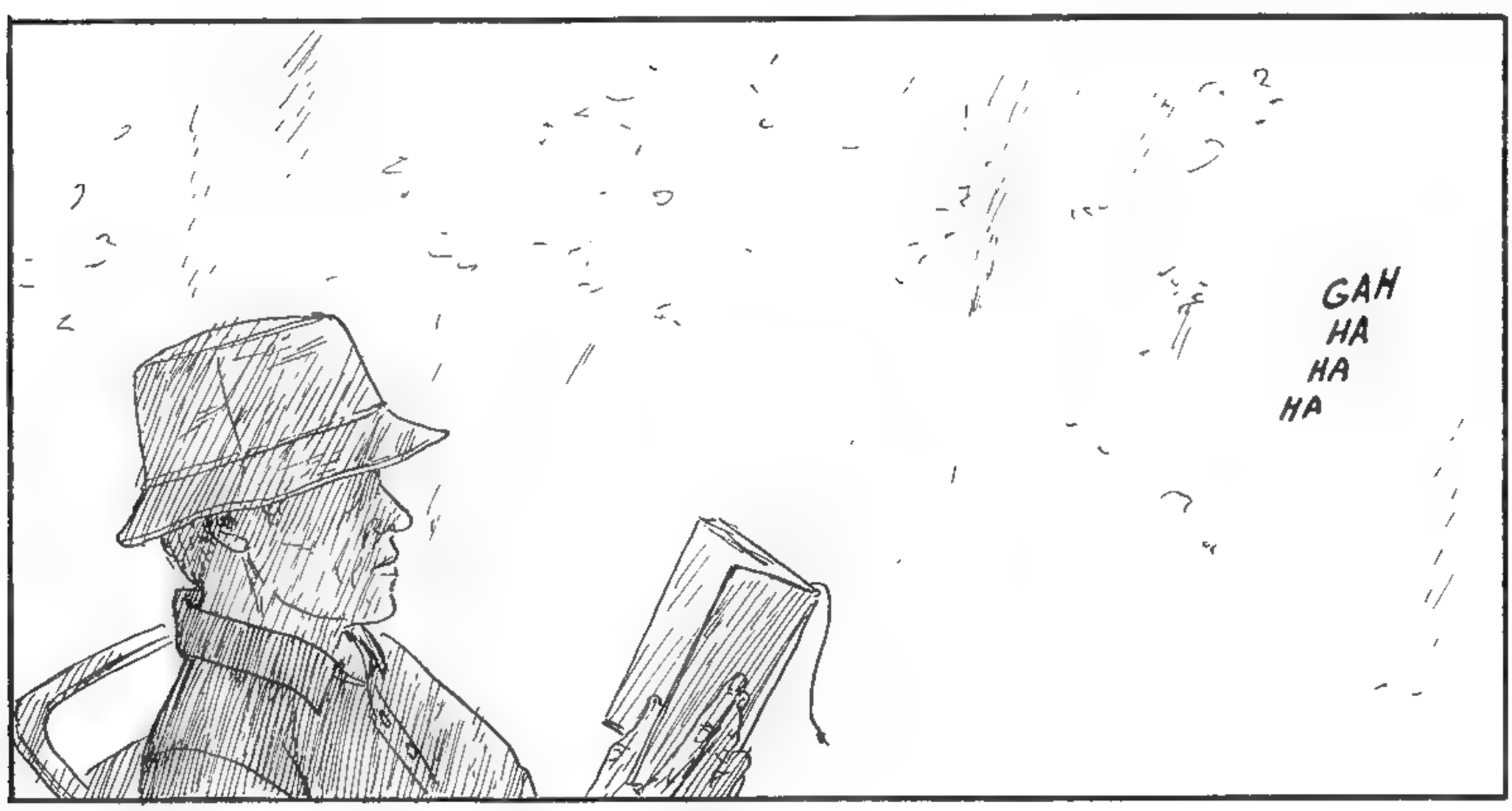

CREAK


FLIP


HFF...

ZEE
ZIKZIK
ZEEK




GAH
HA
HA
HA

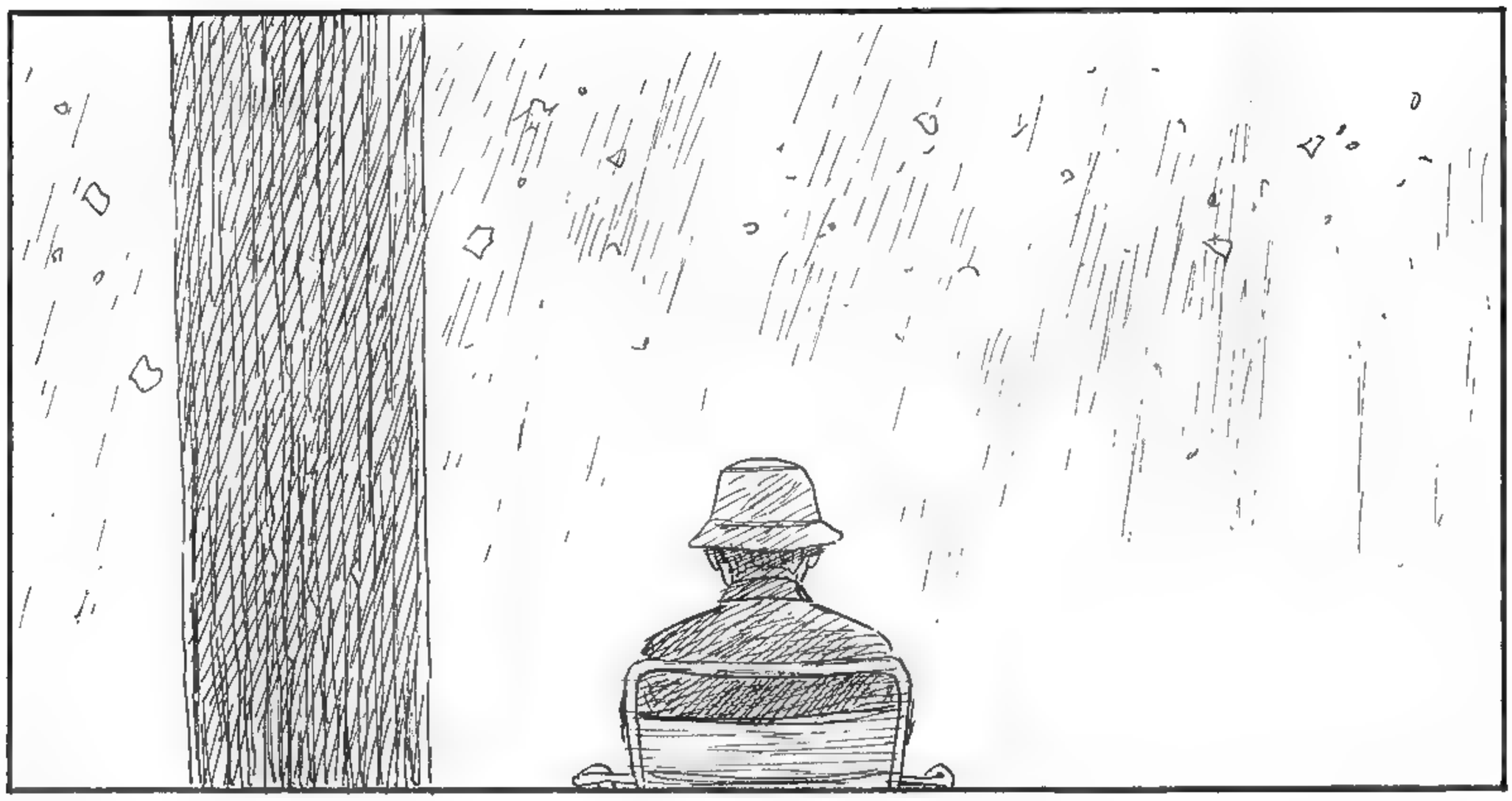
WHAP

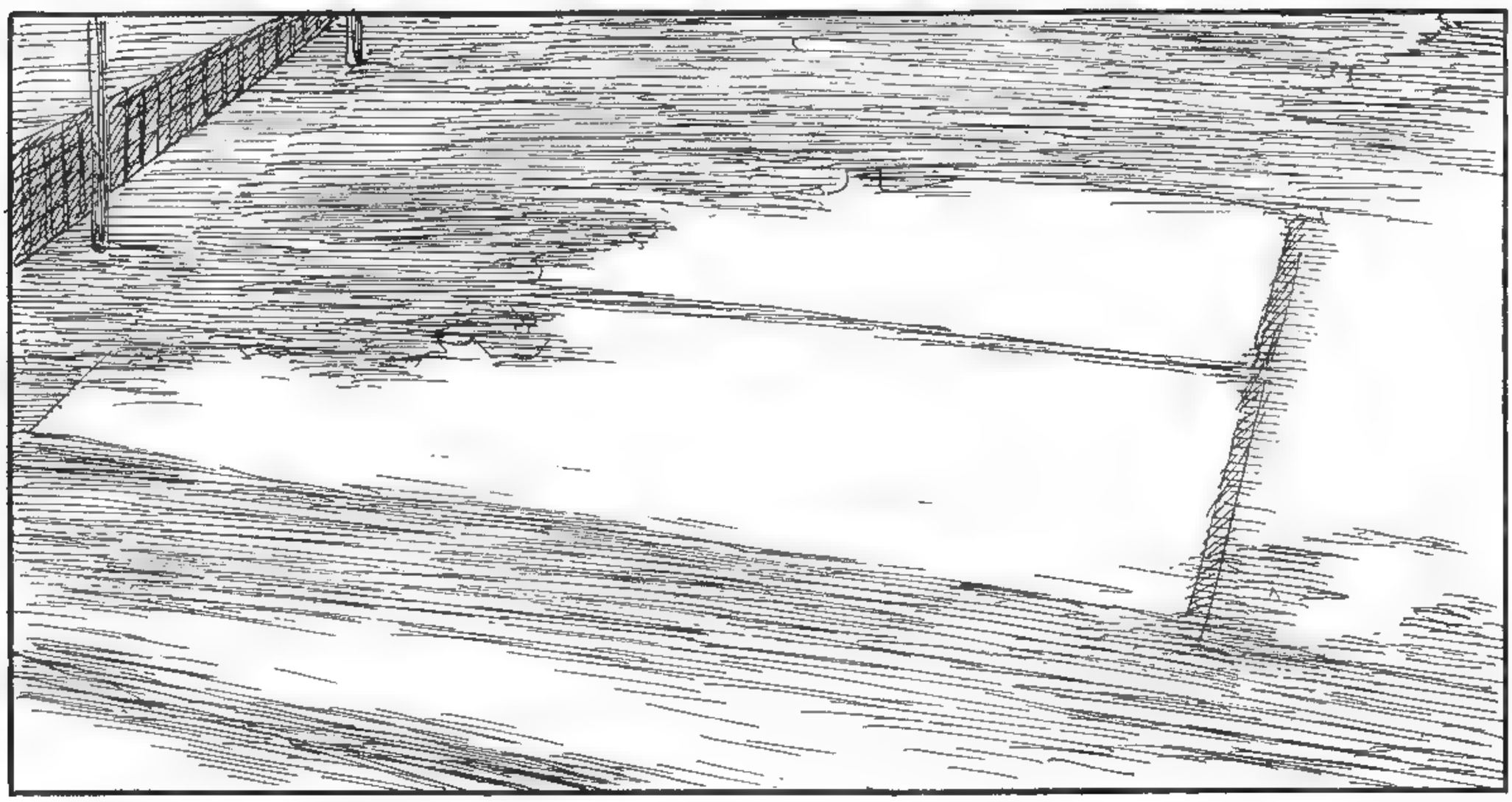
GRWL

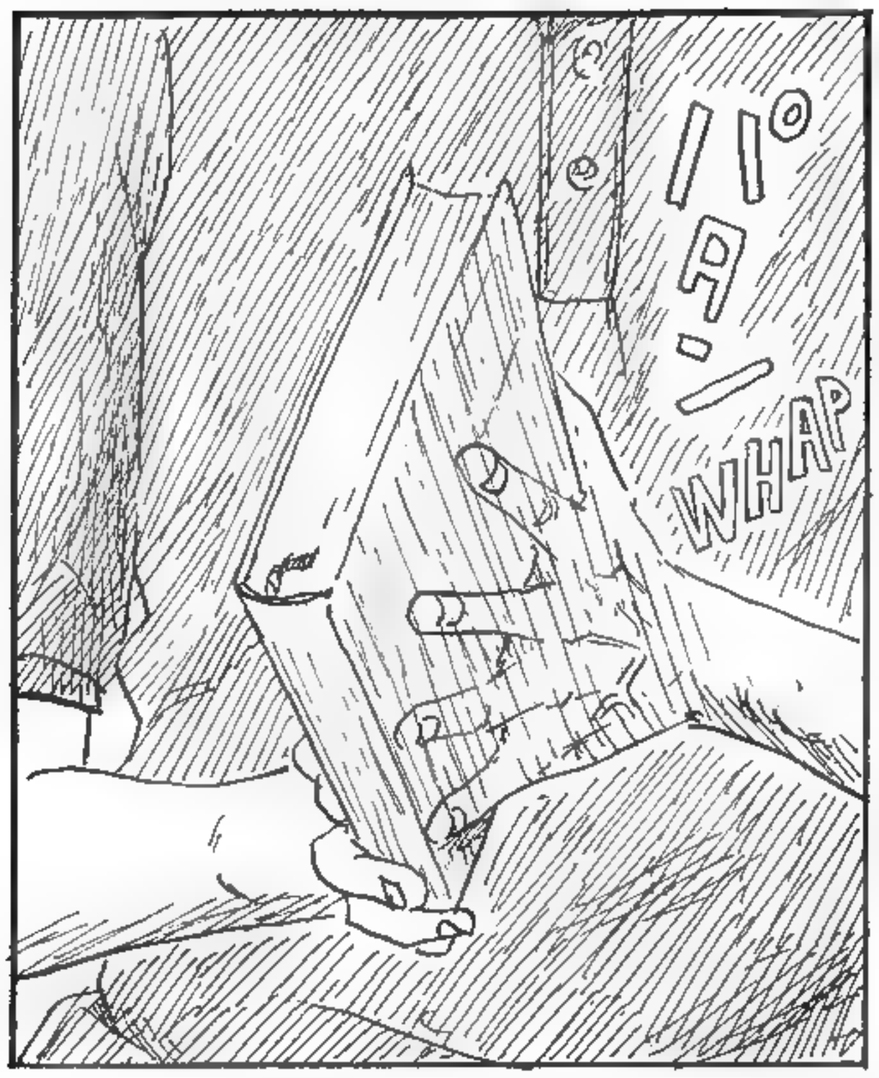
Tuna Mayo

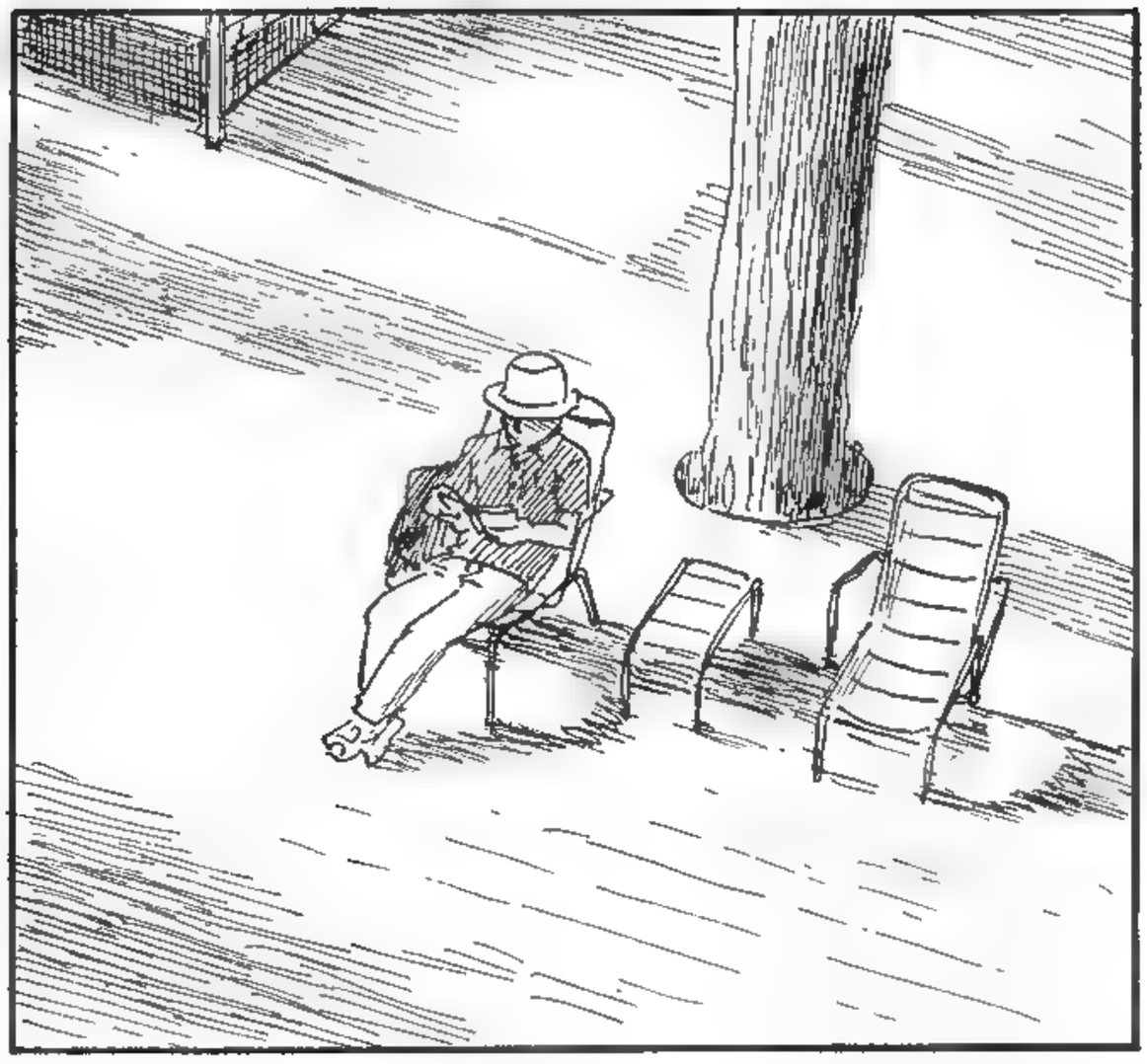
RUSTLE

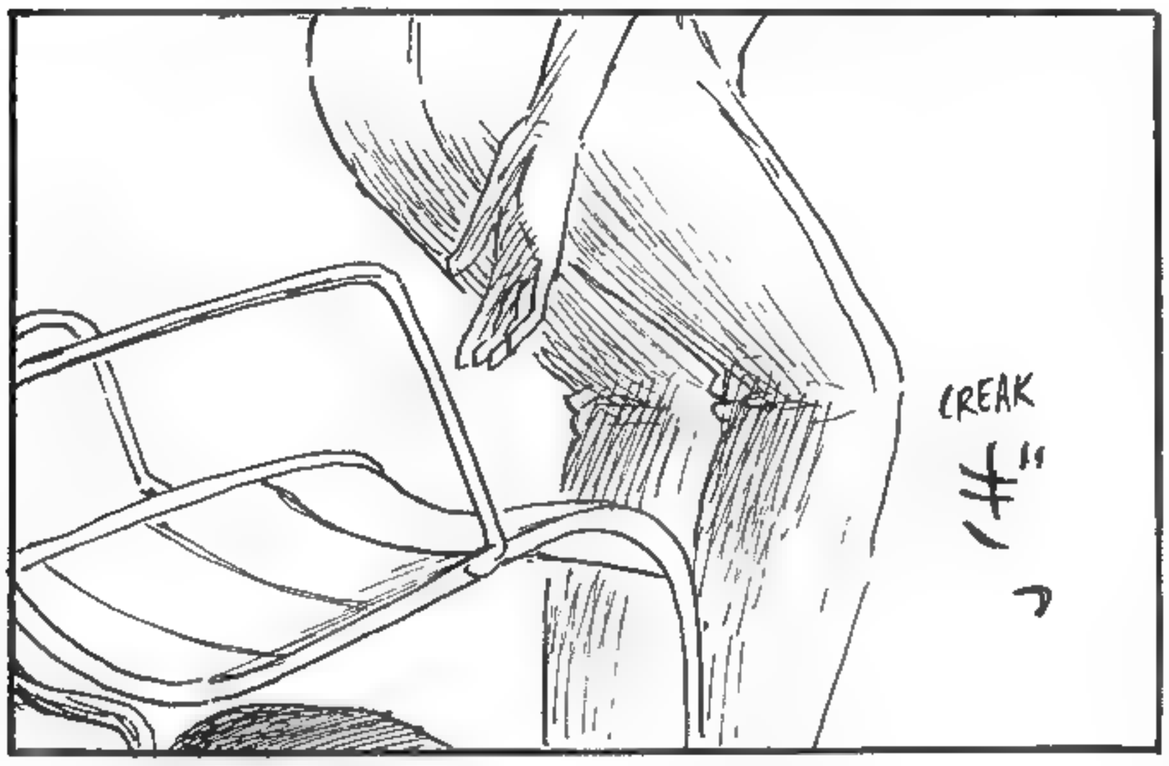
DOWN THE HATCH.

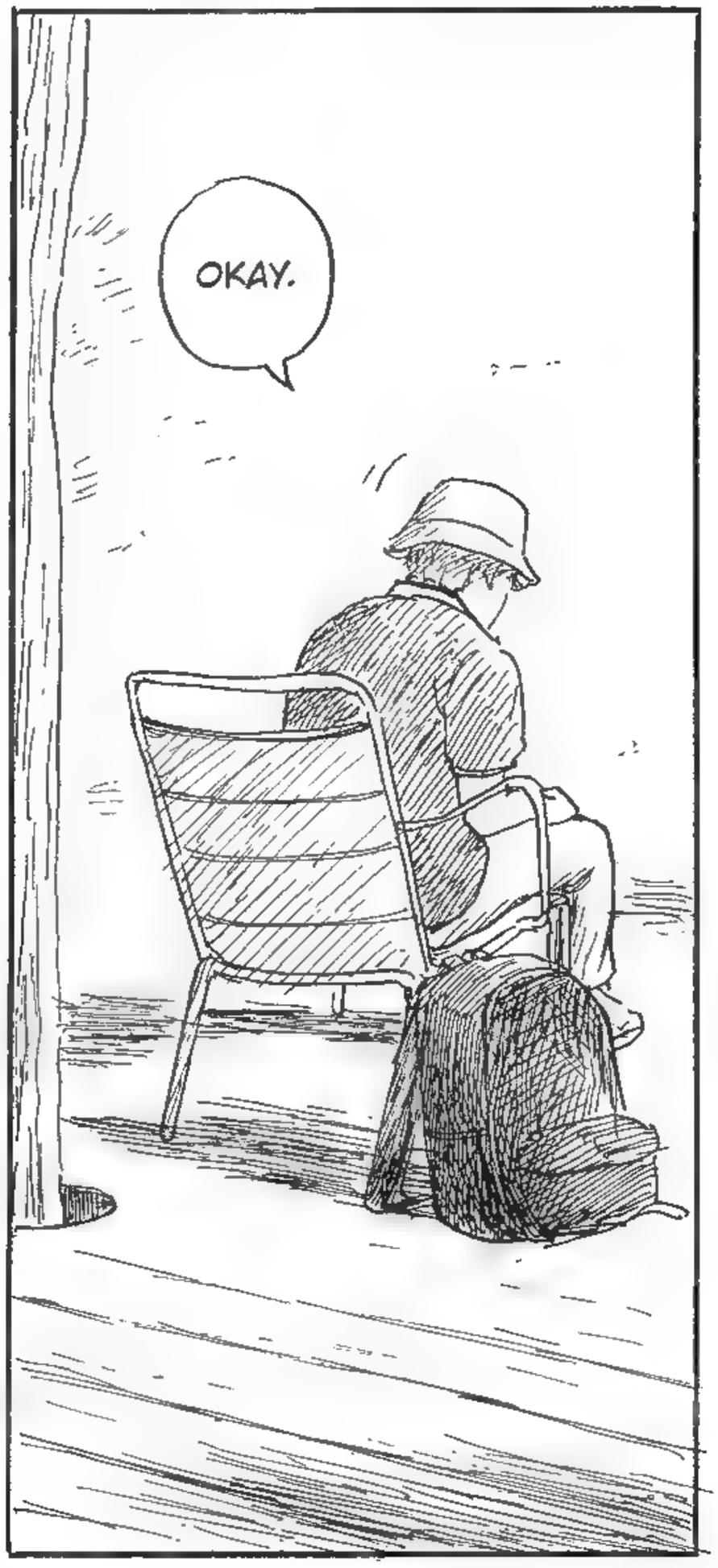


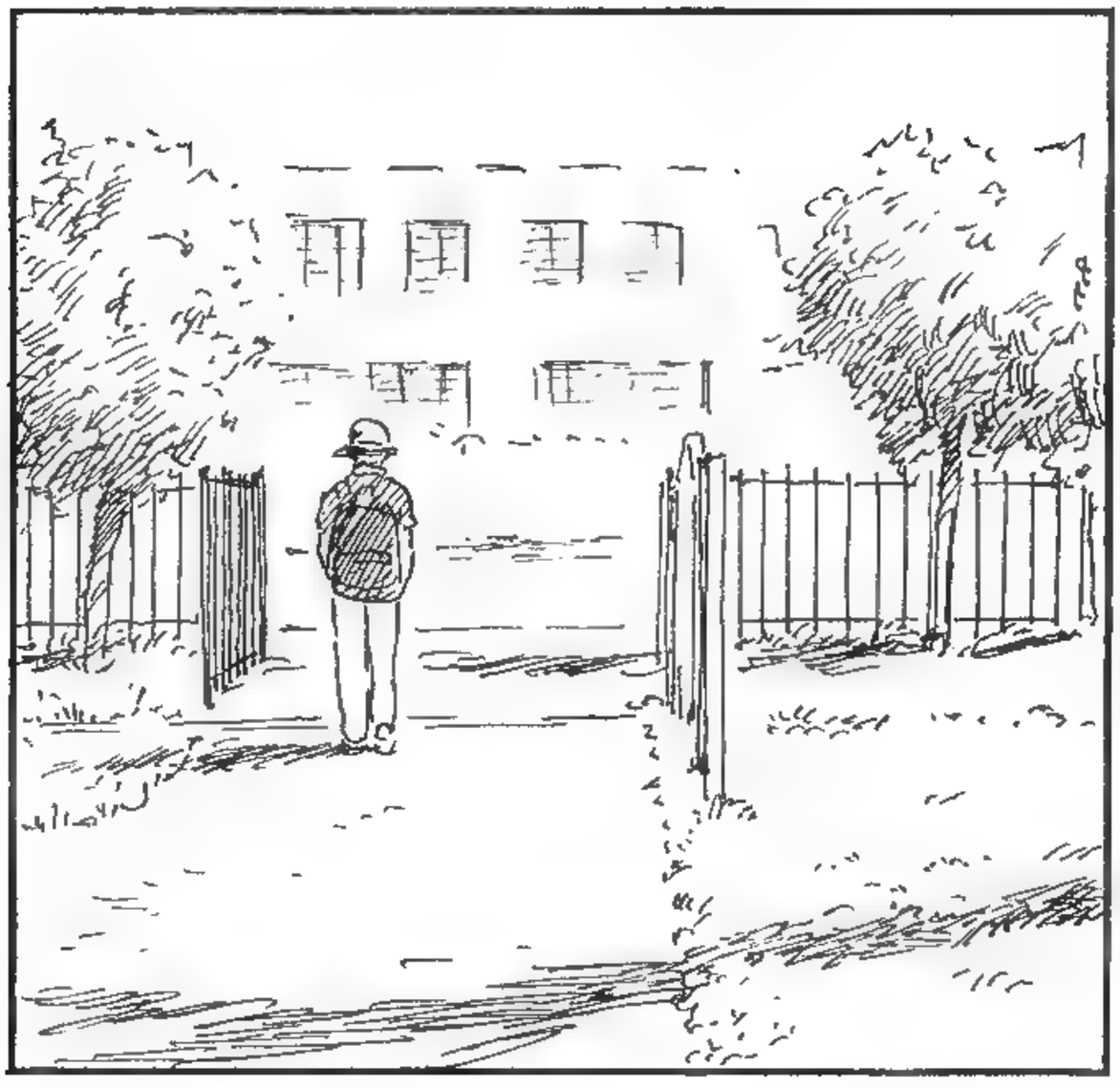


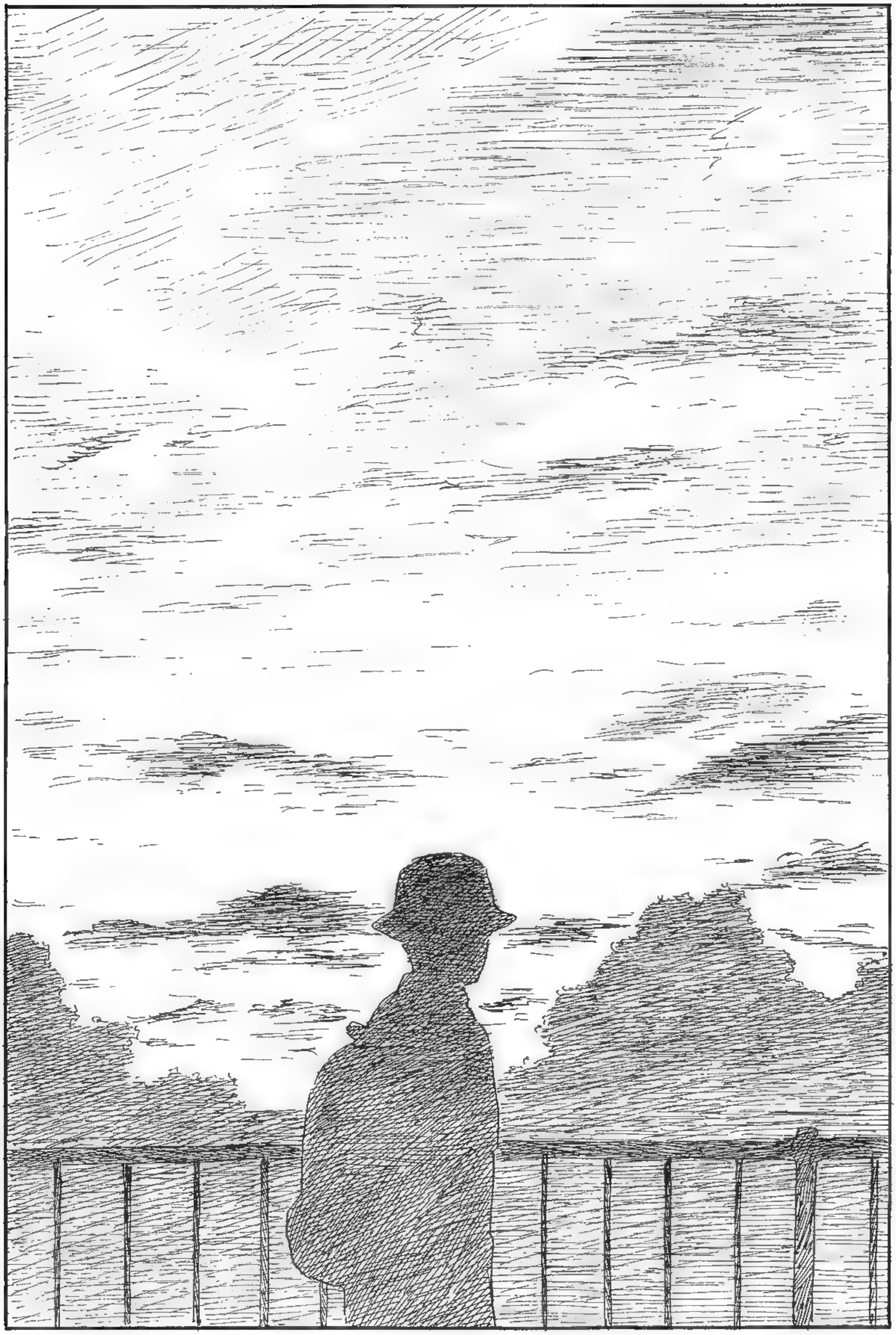

WHAP



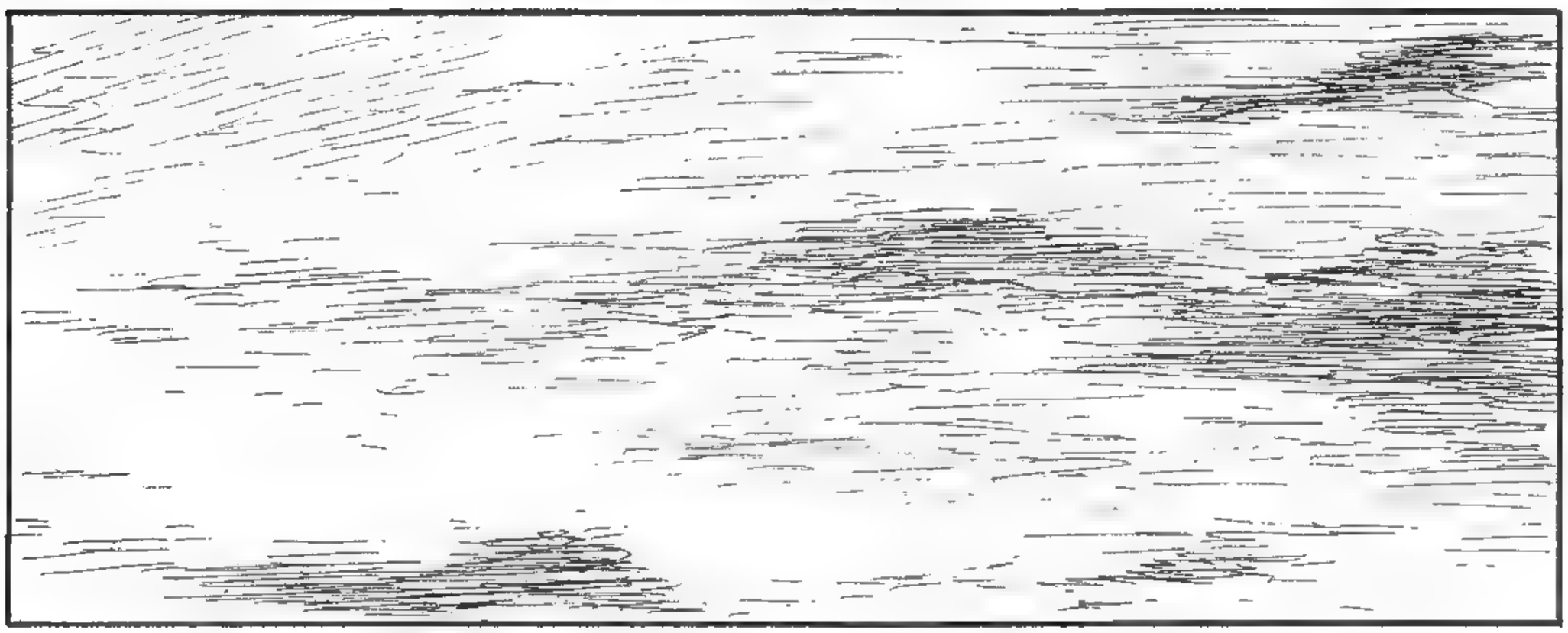

CREAK

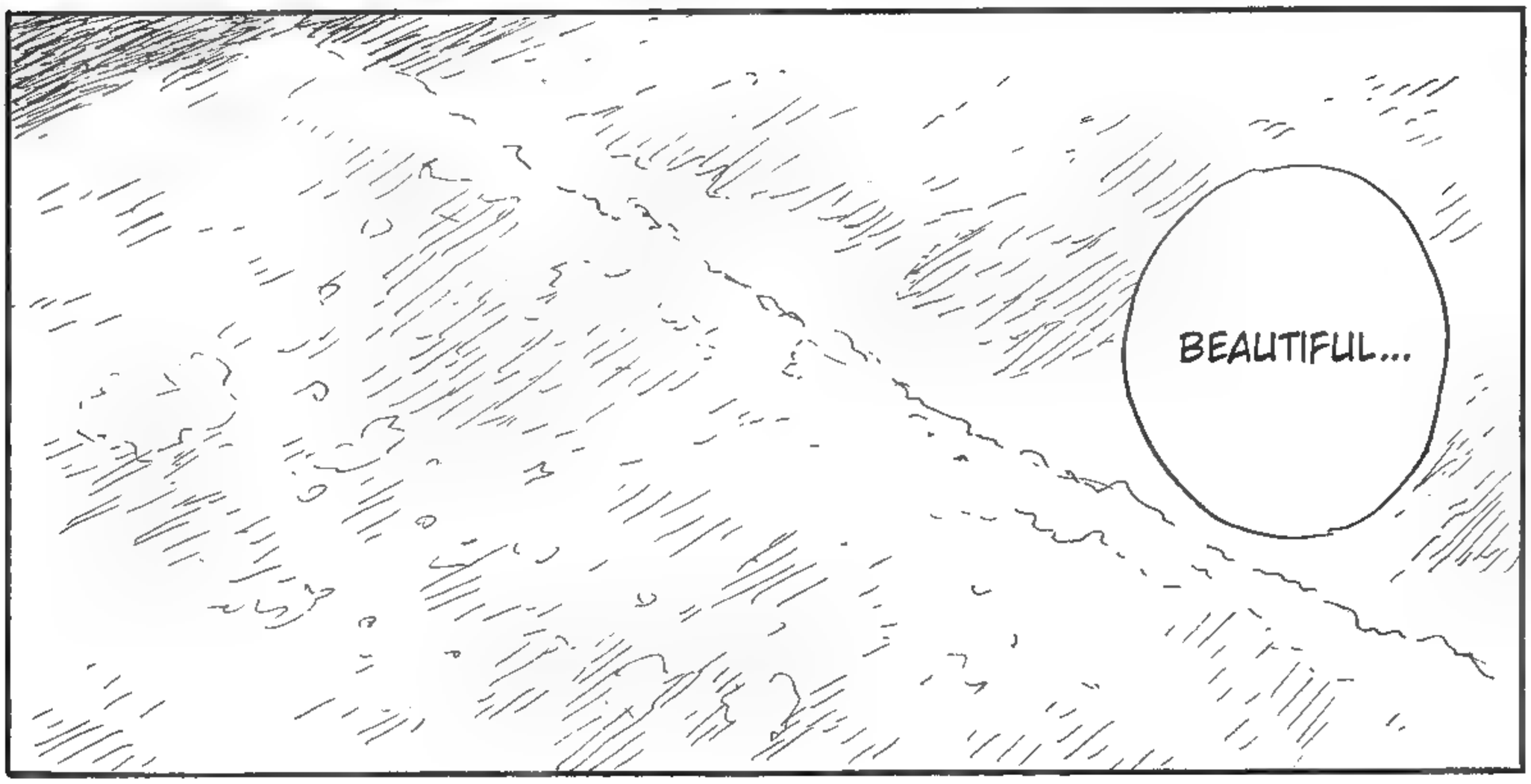

OKAY.





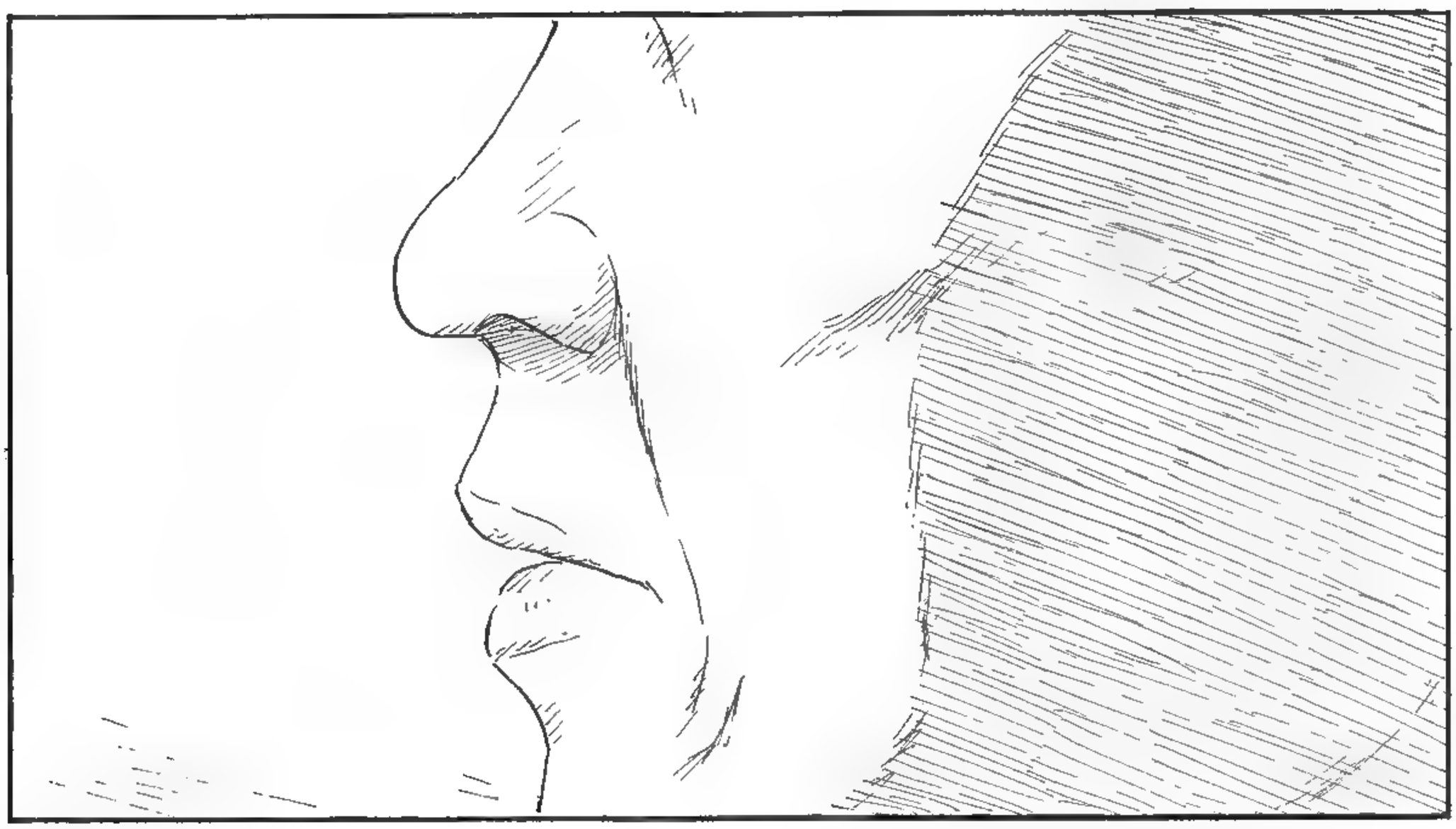
...AHH,





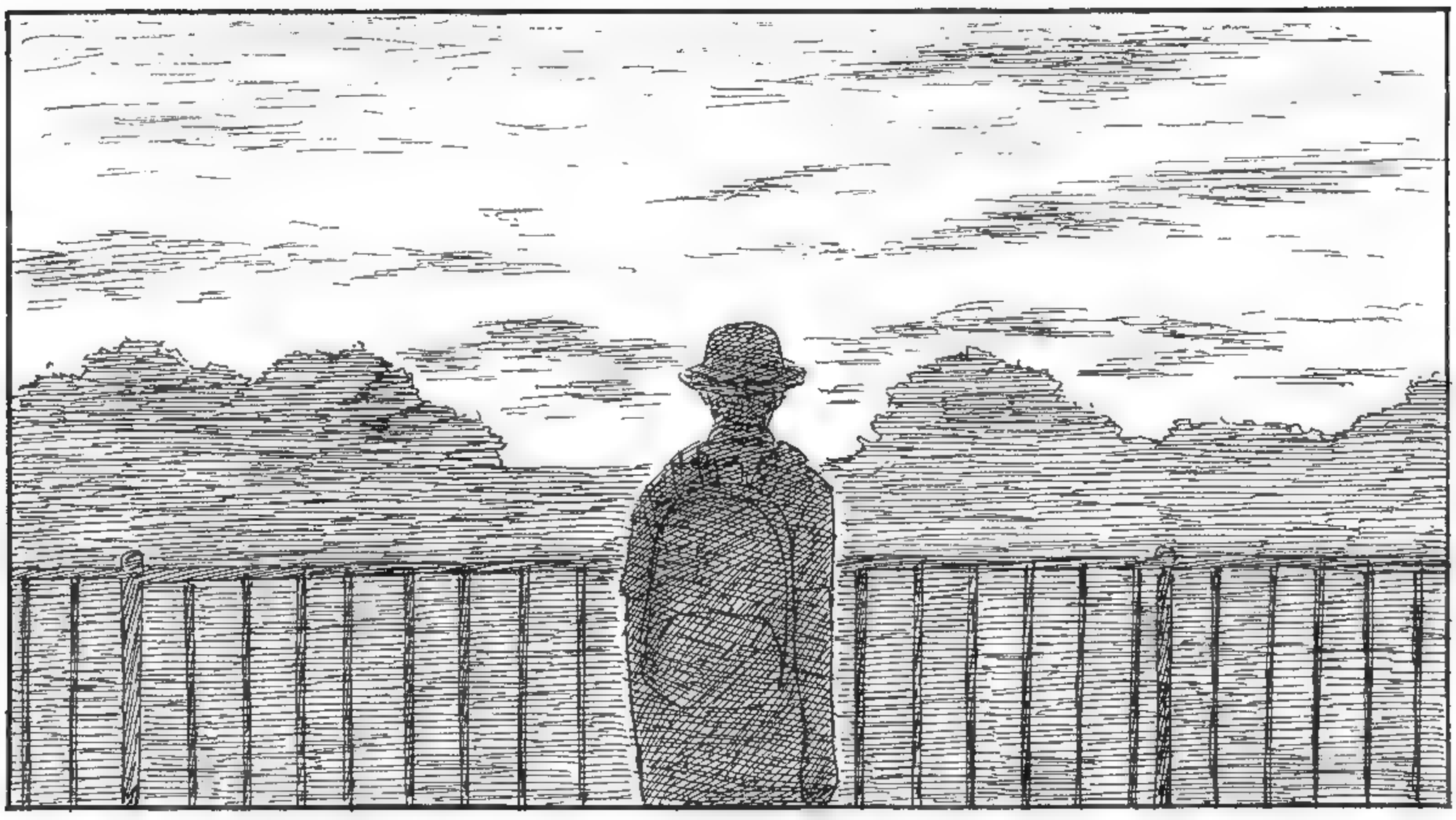
Then,

all of a sudden,



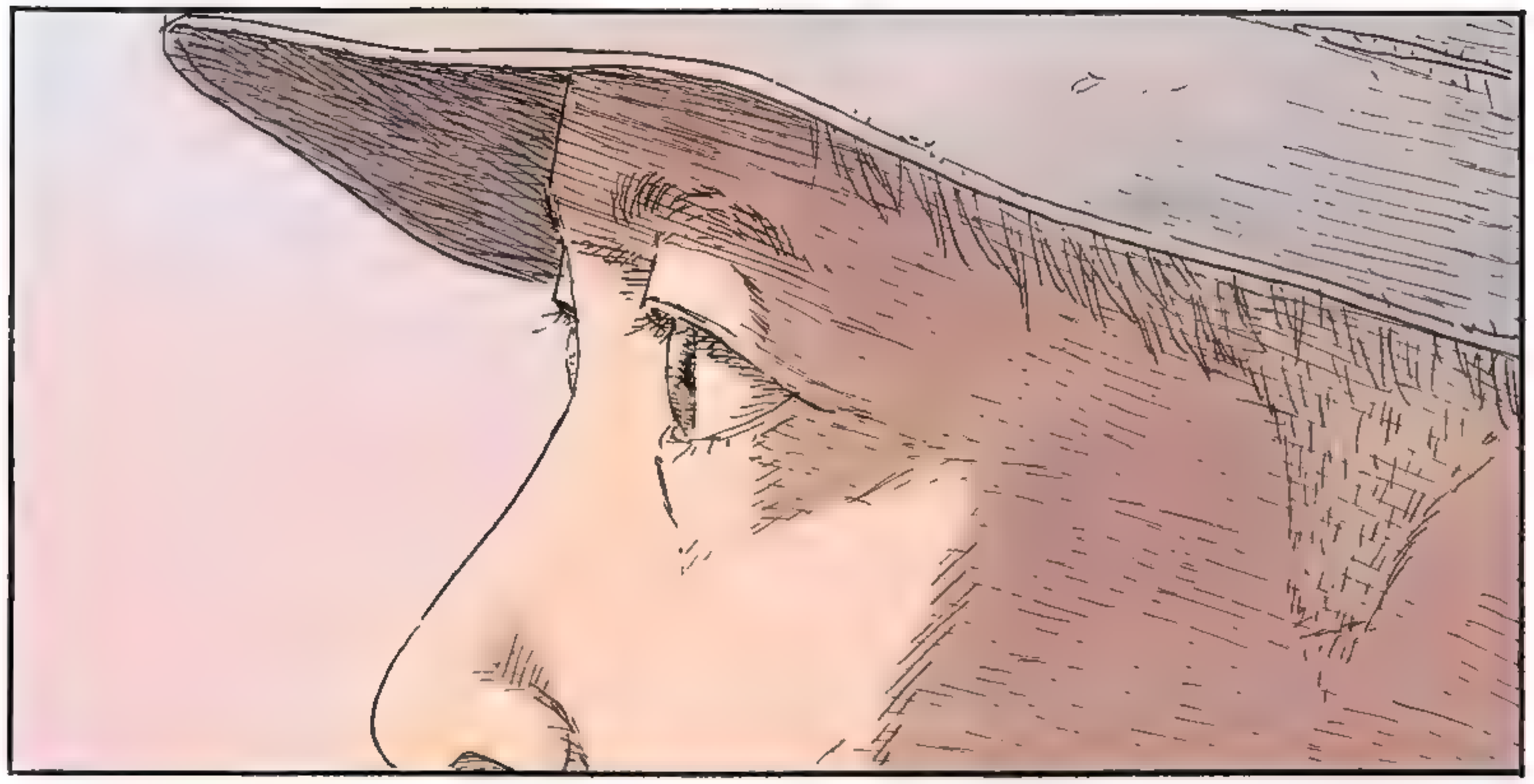
I thought of my mother.

(How many years had it been?)



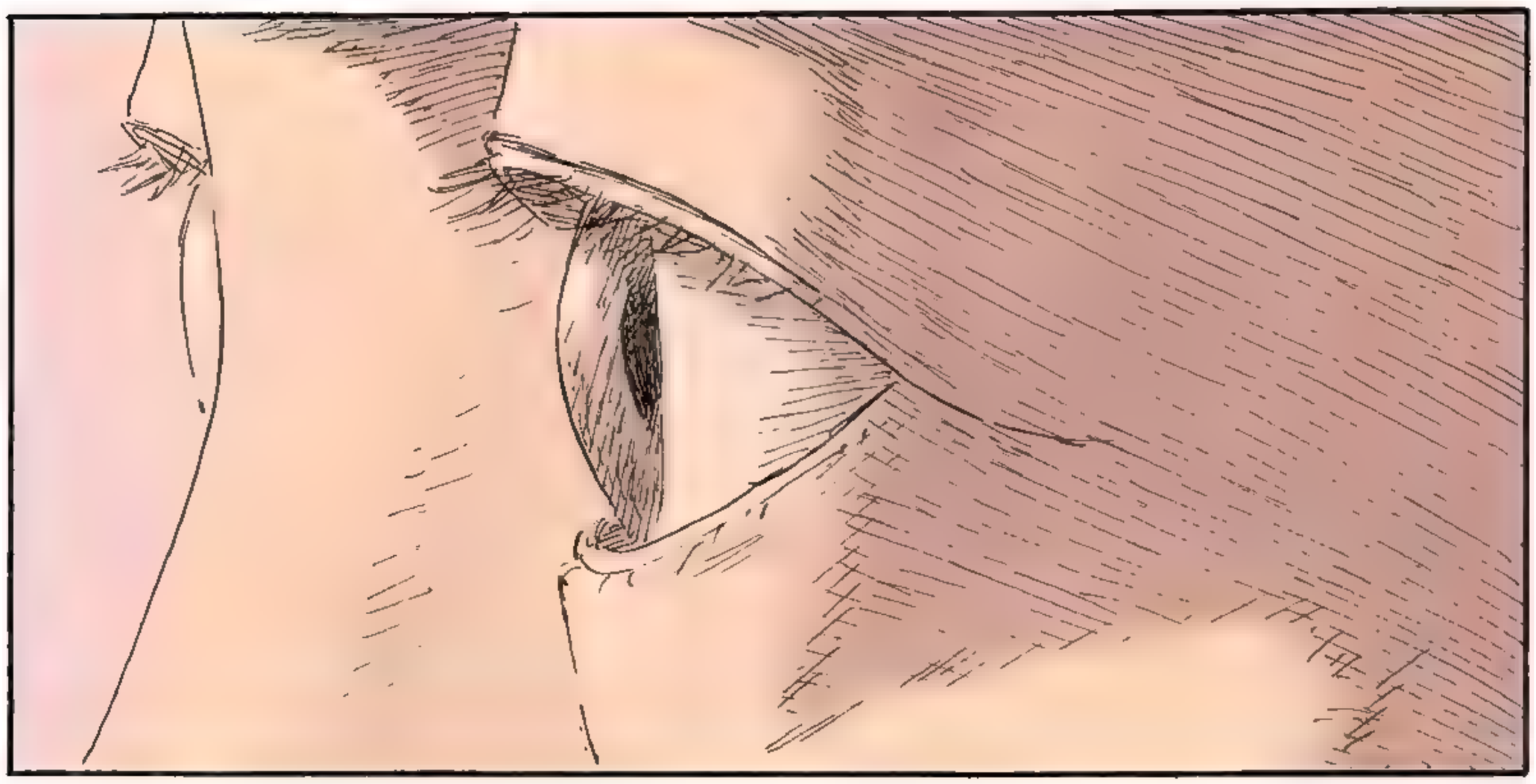
But

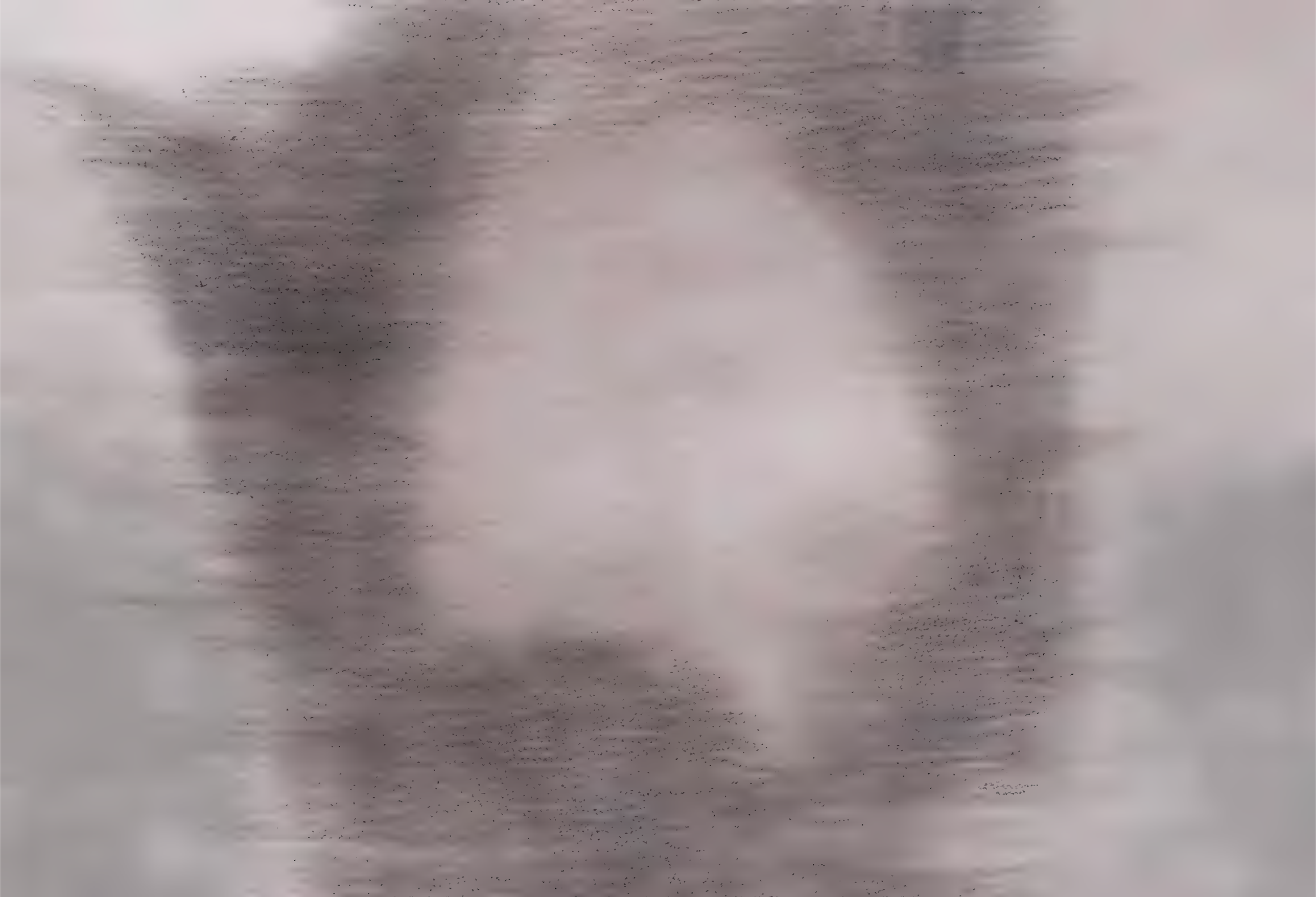
the face that came to me



was so hazy,

I realized





I couldn't
remember
what my mother
looked like
anymore.

Blood on the Tracks

END

Afterword

Thank you so much for staying with this to the end.

When I started drawing this story, I decided I would only include what I truly needed to include, no filler—I would just keep going until I'd drawn it all. If I only made it part way I felt like I would never be able to get back on my feet, so I absolutely had to stick with it to the end.

Fortunately, I was blessed with a strong readership, so I managed to keep it running for six years and put down my pen at the point where I had nothing more to draw. This is a joyful thing to me. At the same time, it's cruel to the real people I've captured in this comic.

I'm sorry for putting you in here. I had to make this to survive.

Either way, the work will go on existing as such, as a story. It might still be read years in the future, or it might soon be forgotten. That's up to all of you.

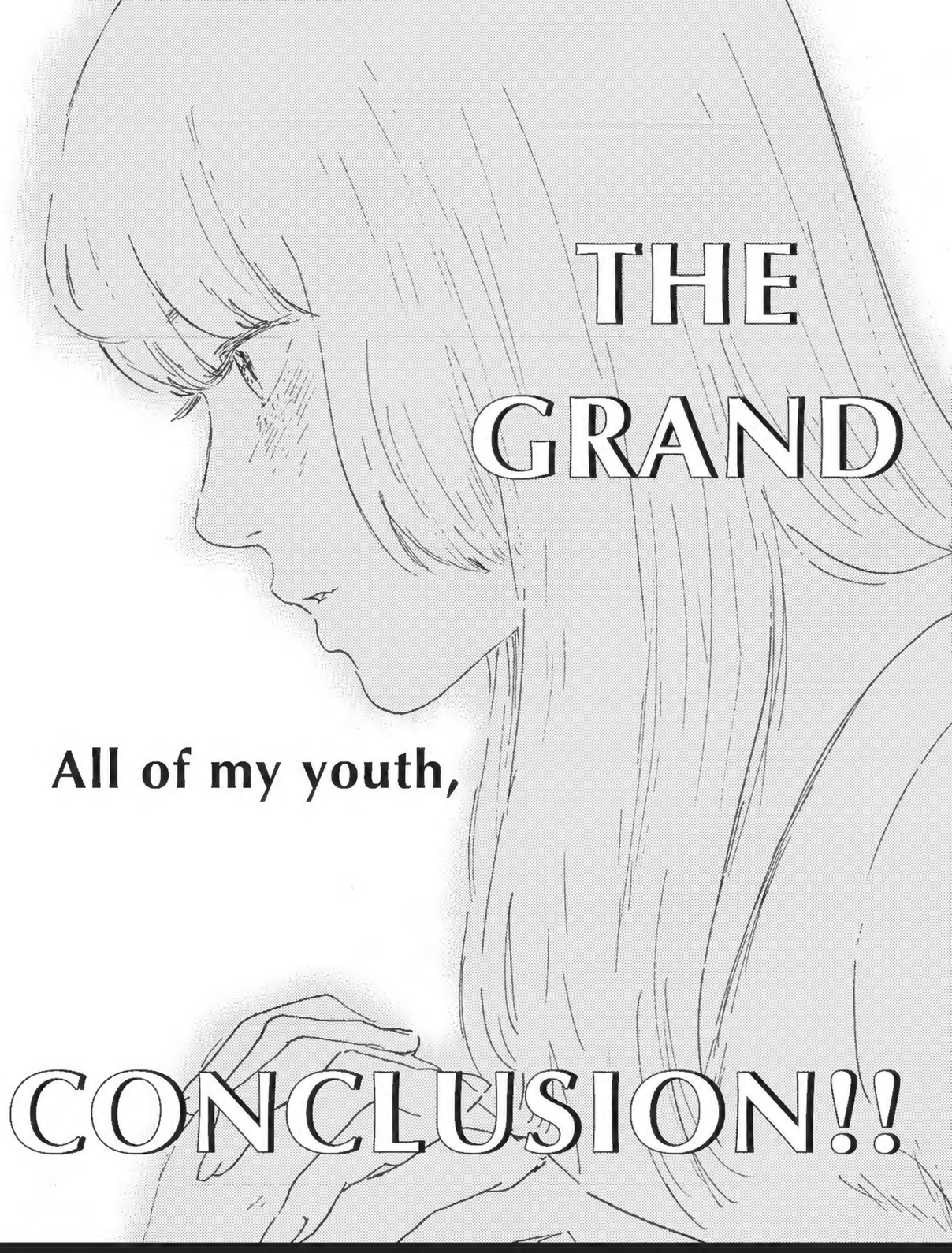
I leave it all in your hands.

Were it not for my editor Kikuchi-san, I doubt I would have had the courage to draw this comic. I'm deeply grateful. Thanks also to Tanikawa-san, who came on as an editor later and helped greatly with research. And to the folks at hive&co., who always grasped the intent of the work and provided fitting designs; to everyone who aided in my research or was otherwise involved; to all the readers who sent their feedback; and to my wife and children, who supported me throughout the run.

To my mother and father; my little brother, who passed away shortly after the first volume saw the light of day; my other relatives; Miss F, who liked me in junior high; and my hometown of Kiryu: I'm sorry. Thank you.

Shuzo Oshimi
Tokyo, August 2023

Welcome Back, Alice



Volume 7 Coming August 2024!!

Blood on the Tracks 17

A Vertical Comics Edition

Translation: Daniel Komen
Editor: Daniel Joseph
Production: Risa Cho
Pei Ann Yeap
Evan Hayden

CHI NO WADACHI 17
by Shuzo OSHIMI

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Tadashi Hisamochi, Seiko Tsuchihashi
(hive&co.,ltd.)

AGES 16+

Seiichi brings Seiko back to his place, and the two of them are under one roof again. But she has lost the will to live after her accident, and Seiichi resigns himself to the task of watching his mother slowly fall apart. Their final conversation unfolds in dream, while Seiichi himself is the object of another dreamer's thoughts...

And so the tale finally comes to a close, the horrors of the past relegated to a welcome oblivion.